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CENTENNIAL HISTORY

OF

PLATTSMOUTH CITY

AND

CASS COUNTY, NEB.

WITH

APPENDIX FROM THE RECORDS AND FILES

OF THE

PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION

OF

CASS COUNTY NEBRASKA.

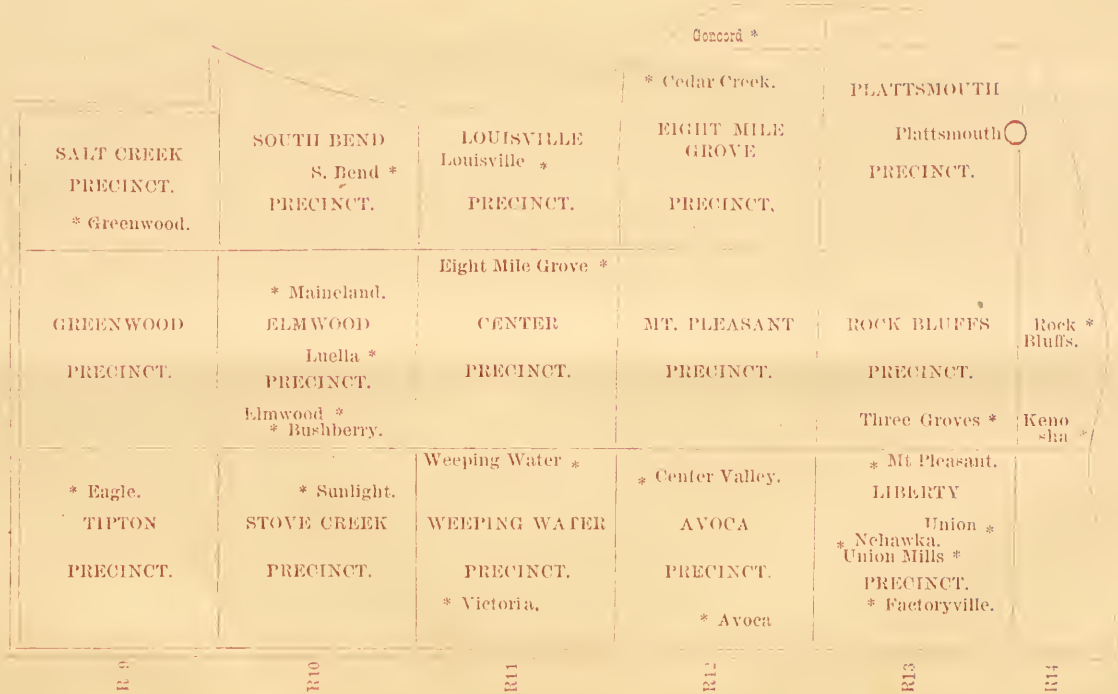
BY [illegible] A. [illegible] CHILD

[illegible]

[illegible] NEB.

[illegible]

CASS COUNTY.


Concord *
* Cedar Creek.
PLATTSMOUTH
SALT CREEK PRECINCT.
* Greenwood.
SOUTH BEND
S. Bend *
PRECINCT.
LOUISVILLE
Louisville *
PRECINCT.
EIGHT MILE GROVE
PRECINCT.
Plattsmouth
PRECINCT.
T12
Eight Mile Grove *
* Mainland.
GREENWOOD
PRECINCT.
ELMWOOD
Luella *
PRECINCT.
Elmwood *
* Bushberry.
CENTER
PRECINCT.
MT. PLEASANT
PRECINCT.
ROCK BLUFFS
PRECINCT.
Three Groves *
Rock * Bluffs.
Keno sha *
T11
Weeping Water *
* Eagle.
TIPTON
PRECINCT.
* Sunlight.
STOVE CREEK
PRECINCT.
WEEPING WATER
PRECINCT.
* Victoria.
* Center Valley.
AVOCA
PRECINCT.
* Avoca
* Mt Pleasant.
LIBERTY
Union *
* Nehawka.
Union Mills *
PRECINCT.
* Factoryville.
T10
R9
R10
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R12
R13
R14

CENTENNIAL HISTORY

—OF—

PLATTSMOUTH CITY,

—AND—

CASS COUNTY, NEB.

By Dr. A. L. CHILD.

JULY 4TH, 1876

PLATTSMOUTH, NEB:
HERALD BOOK AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE.
1877

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CENTENNIAL HISTORY

-OF-

PLATTSMOUTH CITY,

-AND-

CASS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

In March, 1876, the U. S. Congress passed a joint resolution recommending, throughout the republic, a general observance of this Hundredth Anniversary of our National Independence; and, that, in addition to the usual observances, each county and town cause an Historical Sketch of said county or town, from its foundation to the present day, to be prepared, and that a copy of it be filed in the Clerk's office of the county, as also in the office of the Librarian of Congress; to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first Centennial of their existence.

This resolution was approved by President Grant on March 13th, and he issued his proclamation to this effect; further recommending that the Governor of each State and Territory also issue a like proclamation to the people of said State or Territory, that notice might thus be brought directly to the mass of the people.

In accordance with this recommendation Governor Garber issued his

PROCLAMATION

from Lincoln on the 25th of April, 1876.

The conception of this idea, with whomsoever it originated, and these acts of our authorities are worthy of all praise. The importance and value of such a photograph of our country at this peculiar time, which finds the whole community aroused and excited on this subject and on every side pondering upon and pouring forth reminiscences of the past, will be above all price. It is a most happy time for such a purpose.

On May 10th, 1876, the

PLATTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL,

through his Honor the Mayor, Gen. Livingston, proposed to me that I should undertake to prepare a sketch of the History of the City of Plattsmouth, including so much of a history of Cass County as might be necessary to show its connection with and relation to the City.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

had neglected to undertake any action under the above recommendations for a history of the County, and the City Council, of course, could act officially only for the City. As I felt the great importance of a more extended history of the County than the action of the Council indicated, I obtained permission of that body to enlarge and extend the history of the County, and thus make it a sketch of the

HISTORY OF CASS COUNTY AND THE CITY OF PLATTSMOUTH.*

It is needless to say that much very important and interesting matter requisite for such a sketch is already lost, or exists in such a mutilated and contradictory form that it is not available. While what was written, that still remains, was so imperfectly executed that it conveys but little reliable information. And yet our task in Nebraska as compared with that of the older States is light and easy. We have the history of the youth, but just arrived at the years of manhood (22 years) to record, while they have that of the hoary veteran, of from one to two and a half centuries.

In the following sketch much care and labor have been expended in sifting and authenticating the information obtained, and only that recorded which seemed most reliable, yet with the many conflicting recollections and imperfect records it will be strange indeed if errors are escaped.

* MAY 10, 1877.—The honorable and efficient Mayor and City Council, after nearly a year of intense labor in preparation for the publication of this history, are, I presume, able to report progress——backward? That is, they have trotted in a half bushel till they have lost sight of all sides of it, and while they are getting across (possibly in time for the next Centennial) I have concluded to publish it myself, as the said honorable and worthy Council, after persistently urging me into a severe and laborious task, refuses to pay a cent for or even refund the cash outlay of its preparation.

A TREATY

between the U. S. Government and Indians, in which the Indians relinquished their title to the lands bordering on the west bank of the Missouri River, was concluded and ratified on April 17, 1854, and proclamation by President Pierce, of this treaty and the extinguishment of the Indian title was made on the 24th of June following. Previous to this, however, large numbers of people, in expectation of these events, had gathered along the east bank of the river, ready at a moments warning to "jump the river" and drive their stakes for "claims" on the long coveted grounds of Nebraska. The Government having up to this date rigorously blockaded the passage by military posts on both sides of the river, and this blockade seems to have been decidedly more effective than that attempted during the year past around the Black Hills. No person was allowed to settle or remain on Nebraska soil except by special permit of the Secretary of War.

THE FIRST PERMIT

of this kind within the bounds of Cass County was obtained by Samuel Martin, to establish a Trading Post on the Missouri River, below the mouth of the Platte. Under this permit, Samuel Martin, assisted by James O'Neil and others, early in the Spring of 1853, built the old two story Log House, at the foot of Main Street, on the north side, on lots 6 and 7 block 31, so wellremembered by all our old settlers. It was placed on nearly the same ground now occupied by the brick erected by Wm. Herold in 1864, and subsequently used as the printing office of the NEBRASKA HERALD. The

"OLD BARRACKS,"

as this was more generally called, was subsequently used for different purposes, stores, offices, post office, &c., till it was removed to make room for the brick. The logs of the "Old Barracks" were from an old house in Iowa, and brought over on the ice before it broke up in the spring of '53. In the fall of '53 James O'Neil also built for the same Samuel Martin, the smaller log house, a little north and west of the first, which, in later days was largely used for County offices, and where many of us in 1857 and '58 paid our first tax in Nebraska; which, in consequence of illegality of proceedings in assessment, was subsequently refunded.

The occupation of this Trading Post in the spring and summer of '53 by him, made

SAMUEL MARTIN THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER IN CASS COUNTY.

On the extinguishment of the Indian title, June 24, 1854, a rush was made for the most valuable claims, and but few days passed before most of the more desirable lands in Cass County, near the Missouri River, were staked and marked with the claimant's names.

I do not propose to cumber this record with the names of those who came here simply for the purpose of speculating in "Claims," and who often forced the real pioneer to pay two, three, or half a dozen prices for his Homestead, and then returning to his home in other States, or else passing on to repeat the same process in newer fields, left the pioneers to fight their own battles and endure all the privations and hardships incident to such life. The claims of these two classes to the regard of the later population of Nebraska are widely diverse.

THE SPECULATOR AND CLAIM JUMPER,

in violation of all right and justice, and almost invariably by perjury, seized upon the just and legal rights of the real settler, and by forcing him to pay two or more prices for his land, thus stripped him of his small means which were necessary to enable him successfully to accomplish the task he had undertaken, and to him, living meanwhile in a "dug out" (but little better than a hole in the ground) scantily clothed, and oft'times in need of food he could not obtain, the real pioneer, (whose name let us honor) we owe the Nebraska of 1876.

Before the legal organization of the Territory of Nebraska, some 250 men had penciled their names on claim stakes within what is now Cass County. As this matter of

"CLAIMS" AND "CLUB LAW"

which attended it, is not as familiar to the later population as it was to the old settler, a few words in explanation may not be amiss.

A CLAIM

was any subdivision of a section (a square mile) as, a half, a fourth, or an eighth of a section; the lines conforming to and parallel with the lines of the section, if already surveyed. If not surveyed, the claimant fixed his own boundaries, but after the survey was made by the Government he must adapt his lines to those of the survey.

The U. S. laws allowed a claim only of 160, 120, 80, or 40 acres, unless it was in case of a fraction, when the whole fraction might be claimed. The Clubs generally allowed and protected claims of 320 acres, looking to further legislation by Congress to authorize such entries.

TO TAKE A CLAIM

was to stake out any of the above described quantities and write the claimant's name and perhaps a description of the land upon the stakes, then have this description filed and recorded by the Secretary of the Club, and this constituted a "claim."

TO "JUMP A CLAIM"

was to remove the stakes already set, and put up others with the jumper's name upon them.

CLUB LAW

was the personal government of the settlement by the settlers themselves in Club meeting assembled.

Before the organization of our Territorial Government it was found necessary to have some tribunal for the settlement of disputes, and each settlement defining its own boundaries formed itself into a "Club" for this purpose. A President, Secretary and Treasurer were elected, a Constitution and Bye Laws adopted, and provision made for regular and special meetings. The Secretary kept a journal of the proceedings of the meetings, also a "Claim Record." To make a claim valid it must first conflict with no other member's rights, and then be recorded with the number of section, township and range, also the date. Most of the clubs also required the positive assurance that it was intended for a bona fide settlement. These clubs varied much in character, according to location. The earlier settlements near the river were largely composed of speculators, who often equaled, if they did not outnumber, the real settlers; while farther back from the river the number of pioneers largely predominated. Of course the different clubs varied in character. On the one extreme self interest ruled largely in most of the proceedings; while on the other the general interest and welfare of the settlement was the ruling principle.

An offender against the laws or decisions of the club was generally summarily dealt with. There was no machinery for assessing fines; no jails or prisons; hence little or no attempt was made to grade the punishment according to the offence. In the clubs controled by real settlers the offender had a fair trial and was informed what he *must do* to retain his membership, and the penalty of refusal to conform at once to the judgment

of the club. The penalty of obstinate and unyielding disobedience was "Removal from the Territory," or in the language of the day to be "Put over the River," and in extreme cases the word "over" did not reach the other side. Very few had the hardihood to resist the judgment of the club, for it was well known that persistent offenders would be so effectually *removed* that they could cause no more trouble.

There was probably but one case in Cass County when it became necessary to resort to

THIS EXTREME PENALTY.

The one, but too vividly remembered yet by many citizens of Plattsmouth, when four unhappy men were started on their last journey *over* the river, but their arrival on the other side has never been reported, nor have they been seen or heard from since.

Other clubs had hard cases to deal with, but they yielded or left before coming to this last fearful resort.

Much has been said and published over the country of these clubs. They have been called

MOBS, LYNCHERS,

and many other bad names. Some of this talk was probably justified and deserved by wrongful and abusive acts, but in the main it was not. Some of them, in the vicinity of the Missouri River, were largely composed of speculators and outlaws, congregated here and remaining only long enough to secure claims, perhaps several, raise what they could upon them, and then return to their homes. Devoid of truth, honor or integ rity they obtained titles to land by perjury. They had no interest in the country except what they carried out of it in their pockets. Sometimes outnumbering the real settlers in the clubs they overruled its action in their own interest, and thus brought disgrace and scandal upon "club law." But the settlements more remote from the border were less infested by this class, and here club law, although very expensive from the amount of time required of each member in personal attendance, formed the best government, in my judgment, that I ever knew.

Before seeking Nebraska I had heard much of the lawless crowd congregated here, and really expected to find little else than ruffians and blacklegs on my arrival. On the evening after I first saw Cass County I learned that a club meeting was to be held near by on the same evening. Full of curiosity, I attended the meeting, expecting to see an assemblage of anything *but men*. As they gathered in, to the number of some forty-five or fifty, I watched closely for the cloven hoofs, and scanned the faces

for the features of the outlaw and ruffian. But my search was in vain, I discovered none of the characteristics for which I sought. I was much surprised, and still more so by the tone, order and character of the proceedings—and after some two years' of membership in that club I should to-day have no hesitation in submitting any question in which I had an interest, of whatever importance, even of life or death, to that club, in preference to any legal court I have ever known, either in Nebraska or elsewhere.

THE SPECULATOR

has been the *curse* of Nebraska. Not only did he demoralize our clubs. His object was "claims," and no course, however vile or rascally, was too low if it led to this object. He sneaked around through the settlements talking of his "great desire for a fixed home," of his "wife and children who would be delighted to come into *such* a *settlement*," thus adding to the society and helping to build up schools, churches, roads, bridges, &c. This, he too well knew, was the very weak side of the pioneer, who, with his wife and children were homesick and lonely. It was impossible with his scanty means to build school houses and support schools, and it was a severe trial to see his children growing up without education. Many were also deeply anxious for the gospel privileges left behind; and bridges, an absolute necessity, it was often impossible to supply—and more settlers only could supply these demands, and remove the evils. To obtain them and this relief he threw his cabin or "Dug-out" door wide open to strangers, divided his last meal with them, perhaps not knowing where the next could be obtained, gave up his bed and slept upon the floor, if he was so fortunate as to have one, left his work and went out over the prairie to hunt up a claim for the promising stranger; or perhaps showed him the fine one he had picked out and been writing back to the old home, urging the relative or friend to come out and occupy—anything and every thing to increase the settlement.

Well, our wolf in sheep's clothing, hugging himself and chuckling over his own shrewdness and the greenness of the pioneer, procures four stones, puts them in his pocket, and goes out to take possession of his claim. He drops the stones at the supposed four corners of a house,takes a small stick, splits one end, puts a bit of window glass in the split and sticks it on one side of the house for a window; borrows a blanket or two and perhaps a bit of plank from his host and goes out at night to his new home, throws down his plank, places his blanket over it and lays down to sleep Then, with the most positive assurance that in so many days or

weeks he will be back with his family to settle down for good, he leaves for the land office and solemnly swears that he has taken a claim, so and so, that he has built a dwelling house upon it with glass windows and a plank floor, that it is for the sole purpose of a *home*, that he wishes to enter it, and that it is his home and he has moved into it as such. He gets his duplicate, steps out, and leaves for his home and family, if he has one, congratulating himself on his sharpness as a speculator. He has entered a fine tract of land at a cost of sixty to eighty cents per acre, which he assures himself he will soon sell for $10, $20, or perhaps $50 per acre.

Some may think this is an exaggeration, or overdrawn sketch. But if you doubt it ask any old pioneer for the facts in the case, and he will duplicate it as many times as you wish. The result of such operations to the pioneer was disheartening and disastrous. He was thus gradually hemmed in and blockaded by speculators' lands, which, by reason of falling prices, remained on their hands unsold and unimproved. He had by his own generosity and kindness helped these vampires to isolate himself from neighbors; and he had not only to paddle his own canoe alone, but he was forced by long and severe privation and toil, gradually improving and enhancing the value of his own land, to also paddle the canoe of his adversary, by raising the value of surrounding lands till they could be sold at a satisfactory price.

And yet this movement did not result in such entire success to the speculator as he had anticipated. He overdid himself. The times were not favorable to the rise of land values; and again, he grabbed so largely and crippled the pioneers and hemmed them in so closely that they could not open up and improve land enough to increase the values of surrounding lands to much extent. Hence many were obliged to sell at prices far below the cost of entering, interest, and taxes. And large quantities are held to-day in Cass County by those who have nearly if not quite lost all hope of ever recovering the money expended.

But for these men there would have been to-day but few, if any, acres of unimproved land in Cass County, and the county would have been millions richer than it now is. For twenty years emigrants have been rolling through our county who would gladly have pitched their tents with us, and often with large capital. But there was no room for them.

Am I not fully justified in denouncing the land speculator as a *curse* to our county?

From my own recollections aided by several kind friends in different parts of the county, I give the names and time of settlement of a few of the pioneers. Many of the first on the ground in several of the precincts were merely speculators, or of a transitory character, selling out their claims and passing on, I therefore omit them; many entire precincts and settlements are omitted also, as letters of inquiry remain unanswered.

In MARTIN'S PRECINCT, now Plattsmouth, the following names are found in 1854, viz.: Samuel Martin, Jacob Adams, Wm. H. Shafer, J. W. O'Neil, W. Mickelwait, C. H. Wolcott, Levi Walker, Stephen Wiles, A. J. Todd, and Wm. Gullion.

ROCK BLUFFS—N. R. Hobbs, Wm. Young, F. M. Young, sen., Wm. Gilmour, sen., Abram Towner, Benj. Albin, J. McF. Haygood, 1854.

FOUR MILE CREEK—Lorenzo Johnson, 1855; Thomas Thomas, Wm. L. Thomas, Samuel Thomas, Peter Beaver, Capt. D. L. Archer, 1856.

EIGHT MILE GROVE—John Scott, 1855; John Mutz, Geo. S. Ruby, J. P. Ruby, 1856.

LOUISVILLE—Adam Ingram, James Ingram, 1856; A. L. Child, 1857; Wm. Snyder, Conrad Ripple, Pat. Blessington, Fred. Stohlman, 1858.

AVOCA—John Kanoba, J. G. Hanson, 1856; Amos Teft, sen., Amos Teft, jr., Orlando Teft, 1857; Geo. W. Adams, 1859.

LIBERTY—Joseph Van Horn, 1854; Samuel Kirkpatrick, 1855; L. Sheldon, J. F. Buck, Stephen Hobson, 1856.

The dates indicate the time when the pioneer planted his stakes for a home, although his family might have still been left behind; yet then and there he identified his interests with that of the county, as proved by continued residence up to the present time. Some, however, have changed their residence to other parts of the county, and several stood faithfully at their posts till mustered out of service for their final settlement.

As before said, the Indian title was extinguished in June of 1854, and soon after Francis Burt was appointed Governor of Nebraska Territory, and Thomas B. Cuming, Secretary. On October 10th, 1854, Gov. Burt arrived and made his headquarters at the old Mission House, Bellevue but delayed in his arrival by sickness, he continued to fail till Oct. 18th, when he died. T. B. Cuming, then acting Governor, immediately set about preparing the machinery of a Territorial Government. He appointed Marshals and ordered an enumeration of the population. The enumeration to be commenced Oct. 24th, 1854 and returns to be made on or

before November 1st. His instructions to the Marshals were to be very cautious and careful to include no one in this enumeration but actual and *bona fide settlers*, with stringent oaths in case of doubt.

Under this census Cass County returned —— inhabitants. On this enumeration he apportioned, out of the twenty-six representatives allowed for the Territorial Legislature by the Organic act, three members to Cass County, and one Councilman out of thirteen, and ordered an election to be held for a Legislature on December 12th, 1854. In the proclamation calling this

FIRST ELECTION,

Cass County was described as "the County lying between the Platte River on the north and the Weeping Water on the south, and from the Missouri River on the east to the limit of the ceded lands on the west" (about 100 miles.) It was divided into

TWO VOTING PRECINCTS,

viz., Martin's precinct, voting at the Old Barracks, with James O'Neil, Thos. G. Palmer, and Stephen Wiles, as Judges; and T. S. Gaskill and L. G. Todd, Clerks, and the second, "Kanosh" precinct, to vote at the house of Col. Thompson, J. S. Griffith, Thos. B. Ashly and L. Young, Judges; and Benj. B. Thompson and Wm. H. Davis, Clerks. At this first election in Cass County on Dec. 12, 1854, I find the poll books for Martin's precinct, (now Plattsmouth) and the number of voters 78. The Kanosh poll books I do not find, but infer from figures and calculations made about the election, that there were some 60 votes polled there.

N. P. Giddings was elected as

NEBRASKA'S FIRST DELEGATE IN CONGRESS.

Lafayette Nuckolls, Councilman from Cass County, and J. M. Latham, J. D. N. Thompson and Wm. Kempton, Representatives. It is said that this J. M. Latham sold out the interests of his constituents for a consideration, and not long after died drunk in a ditch in St. Joe.

Of the voters whose names are recorded at this first election in Martin's precinct, who are still with us or remained with us till the close of their lives, I find, Samuel Martin, who died three days after, viz., Dec. 15, 1854, thus being not only the first white settler in the County, but filled the first white settler's grave. He was buried on the the hill where several other graves now are, in Young & Hayes Addition, west of the High School building. *

* The bones disturbed a few years since while grading the street east of the Episcopal Church, were those of a woman passing through, westward, who died and was buried here in 1852 or 1853.

The other voters were Jacob Adams, Wm. H. Shafer, Broad Cole, Wm. Gullion, James O'Neil, W. Mickelwait, John Watson, Henry Watson, Joshua Murray, A. J. Todd, Samuel Hahn, L. G. Todd, Levi Walker, Stephen Wiles, Joshua Gappen, and 63 others, most of whom had no legal right to a vote but still remained and intended to remain citizens of other States.

Acting Governor Cumings convened

THE FIRST LEGISLATURE

January 16, 1855, which adopted a large part of the Iowa Civil Code, which gave the Probate Judge a very important part to play in the administration of county affairs. This Legislature also further defined the boundaries of Cass County, as follows, "On the north by the Platte river, east by the Missouri, south by Pierce County, (now Otoe), and extending west twenty-four miles on the south line. Pierce County, the northern line of which now became the southern boundary of Cass, was to commence one and a half miles north of the mouth of Weeping Water, and thence run twenty-four miles west.

The Register of Deeds was required to act as Clerk to the Probate Judge, and the two performed all the present duties of County Commissioners, Recorder and County Clerk. On March 30th the Governor appointed

ABRAM TOWNER PROBATE JUDGE,

and Thos. J. Palmer Register of Deeds, as also Thomas B. Ashley, Justice of the Peace for Kanosh Precinct. On the same day Judge Towner opened his Court and by order divided Cass County into two precincts by the following lines: "Beginning at the mouth of Rock Creek, then up the Creek to the main fork near John Clemmons', thence up the north fork to the old emigrant road, and thence westward along the same to the west line of the county." North of this line to be Plattsmouth Precinct, and south of it Rock Bluffs. He also ordered the

FIRST COUNTY ELECTION

to be held on April 10th, 1855, and appointed James O'Neil, Elias Gibbs, and Stephen Wiles, as Judges, and Charles Walcott and P. Shannon as Clerks of Plattsmouth Precinct; and Thos. B. Ashley, Frank McCall and Curtis Rakes, Judges, and Wm. H. Davis and John Griffith, Clerks of Rock Bluffs precinct. No returns or poll books are to be found of this election, but I learn from Judge Towner that L. G. Todd and Allen Watson were elected as Justices of the Peace for Plattsmouth Precinct; and Thos. B. Ashley and Thos. Thompson for Rock Bluffs; and Bela White County Treasurer.

On May 1st, 1855, Thos. J. Palmer was removed from the office of Register of Deeds, because he was not a resident of the county, and Wm. H. Davis appointed in his place.

June 4th, 1855, A. C. Towner, previously appointed Sheriff by the Governor, was ordered to assess the county. Of this assessment I find no record. The first Legislature (of January 16, to March 16, 1855) provided for an annual general election on the first Tuesday in November, for which the Probate Judge was required to appoint Judges and Clerks.

At this, the second general election, H. C. Wolph was elected Probate Judge, and Wm. Young, County Surveyor. No record is to be found of the members of the Legislature, but there was a tie vote on Sheriff. Allen Watson and Moses Jackson were elected Justices for Plattsmouth Precinct, and Mathew Hughes for Rock Bluffs. A special election was ordered for a Sheriff, with a second tie as the result; and a third election was ordered. A little skillful maneuvering this time detached a few of Mr. Lucas' supporters on a surveying trip, and returned W. R. Ellington as Sheriff.

On January 7th, 1856, H. C. Wolph entered upon his duties as Probate Judge. On March 3d he divided Rock Bluffs Precinct into Cassville and Kanosha. He also appointed a Grand and Petit Jury preparatory to the holding of a District Court in the County in April. The names of these jurors are missing.

Judge Edward Harden presided at this

FIRST SESSION OF THE DISTRICT COURT

in Cass County in April of 1856, and A. C. Towner seems to have acted as Sheriff, although W. R. Ellington was elected in November previous.

On May 5th, 1856, Sheriff Ellington was ordered to assess the County; and on Sept. 10 on petition of several citizens of Clay and Lancaster Counties, the Probate Judge created the precinct of Chester, and on the same day divided Cass County into three Commissioners Districts named Plattsmouth, Kanosha and Cassville, preparatory to the election of County Commissioners, as the Legislature of 1855-'56 had repealed the previously adopted Iowa Code, and provided for a Board of County Commissioners. Hence, with the general election of November 4, 1856, or rather on January 1st 1857, when the newly elected officers entered upon their duties, the large powers of the Probate Court came to an end.

The choice of lands in 1854 was confined almost entirely to the vicinity of the Missouri River; few, if any, were taken at any considerable distance from it.

In 1855 a few settlers reached out to Four Mile Creek, Eight Mile Grove and a short distance up the valley of the Weeping Water. But in 1856 there was a more general extension. The several earlier settlements were much enlarged, and in addition, the Weeping Water up to and above the Falls, Cedar, Thompson's Fountain, and Salt Creek, had considerable settlements.

THE FRONTIER WAVE

of settlers has rarely if ever become fixed and made a permanent settlement. After a few years, and sometimes only months, for recuperation and rest; it rises again and rolls on toward the West.

This class of pioneers has held a prominent position in our National History from the earlier settlements on the Atlantic to the present day. A class but too generally intolerant of the restraints of the law, order, or civilization; and not greatly noted for love of industry, truth, right or justice. Yet including many sturdy, upright, and honest men; who cannot endure the artificial trammels of society, nor the technical quibbles of law, by which honest men so often suffer, and rogues and villains fatten.

This class has generally gathered on the western border of the settlements, (as there was always room there but not always in any other direction), and as the hated habits, forms and powers approached they receded from them. Like Cooper's old "Leatherstocking," they could not endure the white man's clearing or his wasteful ways.

They have moved, moved—and moved again; till the great barrier, the Pacific Ocean, 3,000 miles from their starting point, has arrested the movements of some but not of all, for some, with a great bound, have reached the Sandwich Islands, and others, with a still greater, have landed in the Russian possessions in northwestern Asia.

Many of this class, moved by their natural impulse, and others, under the excitement of the newly discovered gold fields, left the County from 1858 to '60-'61. But the vacancies were filled, or perhaps overfilled, in the two or three following years, by the crowd from the east, hurrying from the "wrath to come" in an expected draft into the army.

In all new settlements hardship, privation, and severe toil are almost always necessary attendants, and though often talked of, and most acutely felt by the old pioneer, are seldom realized by the inexperienced hearer. Some of these were peculiar to our situation. In 1854, '55, '56 money was plenty and easily obtained by those who had means. But probably here, for the first time, many realized that money, although the pocket

might be full, would not stop the cravings of hunger nor shield the body from the fierce winter winds and snows. We were not on the frontier of an old productive country, but on a frontier of a frontier.

A new settlement is usually composed of industrious hardworking men and women, nearly, if not all, bees, and no drones. Our population was at least one half non-producing speculators, drones, who consumed the larger part of what the bees produced or procured. They were here to make money, by taking claims and selling them at large profits. To plat cities on paper, sell corner lots, and then perhaps to find a location to drop the plat upon, and some never found an abiding place on which to rest. While many with a price current for lots, quoted daily, never had a building upon them. And although a legion of them in this county flourished under wonderful acts of incorporation, had splendid and costly lithographs and engravings of them, exhibiting their magnificent parks and public buildings, while many held the location of the State or Territorial Capital, none had less than the County Seat and County buildings.

Thousands of dollars were invested in these cities, in which some body surely made money, and just as surely somebody lost, for to-day, with the exception of some half dozen villages, their names and locations are only in the history of the past.

This large portion of our population with ready means secured a large proportion of the provisions and other necessary articles which could be obtained, and left the pioneer to get what he could, which was often little or nothing. Under these circumstances, with but few real producers, and those necessarily much restricted in their farming operations by the first demand of a shelter for the family, where there was but little if any material to construct one of; and the further task of providing food during at least the first year from outside his farm, and often nothing to be obtained at any price within a day's travel; and with the average pioneer but little if any surplus of money to buy with, and you will see he had a hard row to hoe.

Permit me to give you a brief history of one pioneer of 1856, who well represents the class except in one point. He brought more money with him than the average pioneer, hence could command assistance and necessaries which many could not. Money enabled him to defend rights which others were obliged to yield to the rapacity of the speculator; and again, he was near a point in the county where such supplies as could be obtained were more easily reached. At some forty-five years of age, he had sold his farm in an eastern state, which he had cut out of the solid timber, and this is generally considered equivalent to the life work of a

man, viz.: to clear up and put in running order a heavy timbered farm. The man who has done it is rarely worth much, physically, after.

He crossed the Missouri with a large family late in the summer of 1856 with some $2800 in his pocket. But the speculator was ahead of him. He could find no land unclaimed without going far out from the river. He therefore yielded his rights to these robbers and gave them $305 for the privilege of buying a homestead. That is he bought a claim of them and then set himself to work to make a home. A few cottonwood boards from Clark's saw mill, over near St. Mary's, in Iowa, enabled him to build a shanty 10x15 feet square, a rather roomy place for a family of eight or nine; with household goods, beds, furniture, &c.; but he soon found large opportunities to fill up the extra room with travelers, wayfarers, and new settlers, who else would have been forced to camp on the open prairie.

He had brought with him a large load of provisions, but his neighbors, less provident or able, had nearly or quite exhausted their stores, and as only chance supplies could be obtained from passing boats, he was obliged to divide out, so that as winter approached his stores were nearly exhausted also. A much traveled road passed his place, and a constant train of new comers, and old settlers from more distant settlements were continually calling for food and often a night's lodging. It was not the habit of the pioneers to pull in the latch string, and the hungry traveler must have his meal, even if it left but a scanty supply for the family on the morrow. Further supplies must be had, and his team was sent (not down into Egypt,) but over to the already badly ravaged land of Iowa. After considerable search, however, they were successful in loading their wagons. But on their return, on reaching the river, they found it impassable from floating ice. A cold snap since they passed over had filled the river with ice, and our friend Mickelwait, who then as now ran the ferry, a flat boat at that time, dared not venture in the heavy ice. Well, there was nothing to do but to—wait. Meantime, our pioneers, and many others, nearing the point of destitution of food, were watching and waiting on the bank of the river for the time when the boat would venture out. At length the time came, after days of delay. The boat ventured out and landed the teams in safety on the Nebraska shore, and the threatened famine was for a time postponed.

In March of 1857, after much difficulty from high water and peril from floating ice, he succeeded in reaching the Land Office at Omaha, entered his land and received his duplicate. But his troubles were far from

over yet. A gentleman(?) speculator, a member of the club, fancied he saw a chance for a speculation. In a club meeting, of which both parties were members, he alleged he had a prior claim to the entered land. A majority of the club were speculators and sympathised with the brother shark. The Record book bearing the evidence of our pioneer's membership and rights under club law, very conveniently disappeared and was not to be found, and, after a one-sided investigation, the club decided that the pioneer was not a member of the club and had no rights which the club were bound to respect, and that he must deed 160 acres of the land to the speculator. He had first paid a heavy price to the speculator for it as a claim, then paid the full price to the Government and held the Land Office Duplicate for the money and now must yield it to the speculator. It was fully proved in the club trial that the speculator held like claims on over 1000 acres, while no club law authorized over 320 acres, and that was double the amount allowed by U. S. law. But this produced no effect, the judgment had been decided upon before the trial took place, and now the deed must be made or the offender would be "put over the river."

A council was held by the real pioneers, and it was decided to submit to no further outrage of this character. They were well armed; they saw that their homes, families, and even lives were at stake, and furthermore they were of the class who do not scare easily. The club, that is the speculator portion, aided by such others as they could control as they advanced to put their judgment in execution, learned that they were to be received at the muzzles of rifles and revolvers and that some thirty shots were ready to greet them from under a good cover. Further, our speculator friends well knew that the small band thus entrenched and armed were the very men to offer very decisive arguments in defense of not only their rights but their lives. This information and the situation had a very soothing effect upon the speculator and his allies; they concluded it was not a good time to try on the "over the river" movement. But the judgment of the club—as inflexible as the laws of the Medes and Persians—what could be done with the judgment? An adviser, long since gone to his last rest, suggested further search for the lost record book, which *might* develope grounds for the removal of the judgment. This kind of a crowd, generally much more ready to creep out of some back door than stand up and make a fair fight, readily seized upon the suggestion. The Record was as conveniently found as it had been previously lost, and lo! all was found right and plain; the pioneer was after all a member, his claims were all right, and the judgment was reversed.

But the speculator, mortified and disgusted by the failure of his scheme, resolved to try it on again, but in a shape less perilous to his own person. He appealed to the Land Office and tried to break the entry of the lands. But there, although he succeeded in causing the pioneer an expense of some hundreds of dollars in defending his rights, he again met with a signal defeat, and soon after in great disgust left the settlement; and the grief at his departure was not great, even with the wife and children he then and there deserted.

The general features of this case are the same as those of very many, only that with less or no means they could not defend and maintain their rights, where money was required, and to procure necessaries of life and buildings was more difficult. Unable perhaps to procure any material for building, they resorted to the "dug out" till they could raise the means of living above ground. The "dug out" was a room excavated generally in the side of a hill, a couple of rails or posts make a door frame, and a wall of square cut prairie turf forms the front and fills up the angles between the front wall and the side hill. A roof, sloping back on to the hill, of rails or poles covered by a thick layer of prairie grass and then with earth, makes a not uncomfortable shelter for summer or winter. But they are not particularly nice or clean especially in long or heavy rain storms.

A prominent feature in our pioneer life from 1854 to '59-'60 was

THE INDIANS.

The Indians in early days were in the habit of roaming through the settlements from the single individual up to fifteen or twenty in number. I have no knowledge of their ever attempting any personal injury to any settler in our county. Still, with the record of their horrible and savage deeds in most all of the early settlements of our country, handed down and too vividly remembered, they were a source of great terror to women and children, as also to husbands and fathers lest they should attack the family in his absence; and, possibly, many of them were not so totally devoid of personal fear; but then it would never do to own this.

The Indians very much preferred the absence of the men in their visits to the settlers' houses, as they found that the women when unprotected by the men were much more ready to yield to their ever unsatisfied and unlimited demand for food. In a settlement, however large, they would enter every house they could get into, and eat all they could get, repeating this operation from house to house. If they found a door open or unfastened they walked in, asking no leave, and then it was "eat,"

"eat," "eat," or if they could command a little more English "Me heap hungry." If they were seen in their approach, and the door fastened, they would seek a window through which the family inside could be seen, flatten their noses and faces up against the glass, and there, with the patience only of an Indian, often stand for hours watching the proceedings of the family, till the poor woman, frightened almost to death, would unfasten the door and feed them in order to get rid of them.

The Indians cannot well be dismissed without a brief reference to our

INDIAN SCARES,

which were generally the result only of panic founded on the morbid fears and imagination, fostered for a century or more by the barbarities of these cumberers of the ground. The several scenes connected with them made an impression too deep on the memories of the people to be soon forgotten, but the particular dates are much mixed up. As these, however, are not very essential I give some of them as near their time and order as I am able to trace them.

THE WHITMORE SCARE

occurred late in the summer or fall of 1856. A Mr. Whitmore had built a cabin in the vicinity of the Salt Basin, in Lancaster County, and settled there with wife and children. Mr. Whitmore left for the river on business, and was soon followed by his wife and children in the night, draggled and wearied almost to death by a foot race to escape from the Indians. She made a fearful report of the atrocities and fearful deeds of the savages in the abuse of herself, destruction of furniture, ripping open feather beds, scattering the feathers in the wind, &c., &c. Her tale spread on all sides as she advanced toward the river, supplemented and enlarged by all kinds of variations that fear and imagination could supply; and as it reached the river settlements it was indeed a fearful one. The number of Indians had increased to hundreds and thousands, and not a house was left unburned or a scalp on its original owner's head. Companies were formed in hot haste at Plattsmouth, Rock Bluffs and Nebraska City, and they hastened towards the scene of devastation. Advance scouts, sent out to reconoiter, met the companies and reported the whole thing to be a *scare*! It is still a matter of dispute whether any damage at all was done by the Indians. We have very positive evidence on one side, that the first parties on the ground, found Whitmore's house and goods all safe and unharmed; and that the scare all originated in the usual visit of the Indians for food, but that Mrs. Whitmore, terribly frightened, run for her life.

On the other side, we have just as positive testimony that furniture was found broken up, beds ripped open, feathers scattered, &c., but no one testifies to personal injury.

A sequel to this scare, or a transaction following it, was the collision of a small company of settlers in the following February, with about the same number of Indians, between Eight Mile Grove and Mt. Pleasant; in which the whites attacked the Indians, with no other excuse that I can hear of, than that these Indians *might* have been connected with the previous scare. The whites fired upon the Indians and broke one Indian's arm; took two or three prisoners and some twelve or fifteen ponies. The prisoners were brought to Plattsmouth and the ponies were put where they would perhaps do the most good; or where they would be safe from observation.

These raiders were soon followed by a company of some one hundred Indians with three chiefs. They took great care, in passing by houses or settlements to keep the band from offering any injury or wrong; and on arrival in Plattsmouth, demanded their men and ponies. After getting an interpreter down from Bellevue, and having a "talk," they were allowed to take the prisoners, and hunt up and take their ponies if they could find them. They camped down in the bend just above Rocky Point for several days, and succeeded in recovering nearly if not all of their ponies, and then quietly returned.

I have no great affection for an Indian, but I cannot but think that in this case somebody ought to have suffered some, and that body, not an Indian either.

During the latter part of the war in '63 and '64, reports were current that the rebels were tampering with the Indians, and exciting them to attack our settlements. These reports caused much anxiety and uneasiness, especially in the more exposed neighborhoods; and almost every settlement had formed regular organizations for drill, defence, rendezvous, &c.

In the fall of '64, word swept through the county with more than the speed of Sir Walter Scott's "Cross of Fire," that Indians were on Salt Creek in large force, perpetrating their usual atrocities, and sweeping down towards the Missouri, with the purpose of exterminating the white settlements. The writer, whom please consider your "War Correspondent" for the hour, hastened to the rendezvous at Louisville, where some forty-five men were soon gathered, all armed and equipped for war. But for the presence of some upstarts who called themselves "Veterans" from services

in the civil war, then near its close, your correspondent might have obtained some befitting office in this movement, (a Sutlership at least).

But with all his merits and qualification over shadowed, he remained in the ranks.

We were at once placed in position, outposts established, and everything made ready to recieve the savage foe and give them——

Crowds of fugitives were rushing past, some with some household goods, others with none, some with proper clothing and others quite the reverse. But all with an eye over their shoulder, while lashing and punching up the team; urged to stop and help in the coming fight, "No!" "No!" they must take care of the women and children. Well, where were the Indians? "Close behind"—"just in sight!" came from them in the distance as the furious whips played upon the teams.

With teeth set, muscles strained to almost cracking tension, and indominitable resolution, we awaited the onset—till——we———were tired. We then sent out a scout of ten men to ascertain where the bloody rascals really were; and then we "rested on our arms" (Is that the way to say it?) and—waited still.

After some eight hours of this lively kind of life (which, as we had counted time, had stretched over as many days,) our scouts returned bringing in ten scalps—on their own heads, and that was *all*. No Indians had been seen—no houses rifled or burned—no lives lost and nobody hurt.

The whole scare originated with an Irishman at old Mr. Barnhill's Ranche, a little above Ashland. He had been left alone at the Ranche, and a couple of Indians came along and wanted whiskey. He sold to them till they raised a war dance, when the Irishman incontinently fled and yelled: "Indians!" "Indians!"

Meanwhile, while the yell was ringing and echoing over the whole of Cass County, the Indians had got over their "drunk" and gone quietly on their way.

THE LEGISLATURE OF '55 AND '56

as before said, repealed the law giving to the Probate Judge such extensive jurisdiction, and provided for a Board of County Commissioners to transact the county business. At the general election of November 4th, 1856, J. Vallery, Jr., R. Palmer and W. D. Gage were elected as our first Board of County Commissioners. They have been succeeded in office as follows:

1857—Wm. Young and R. R. Davis.
1858—Geo. Mayfield.
1859—John Mutz.
1860—L. G. Todd.
1861—J. Vallery, Jr.
1862—Wm. L. Thompson.
1863—Isaac Pollard.
1864—M. L. White.
1865—D. Cole.
1866—A. Carmichael.
1867—Jas. O'Neil.
1868—J. B. Moore.
1869—Benj. Albin.
1870—J. Vallery, Jr.
1871—L. H. James.
1872—T. Clark.
1873—M. L. White.
1874—W. B. Arnold.
1875—B. S. Ramsey.
1876—E. G. Dovey, (to fill vacancy.)

OUR COUNTY CLERKS HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS:—EACH ELECTION BEING FOR TWO YEARS:

1857—J. N. Wise.
1859—D. H. Wheeler.
1861-'63-'65-'67—B. Spurlock.
1869—Isaac Pollard.
1871-'73—D. W. McKinnon.
1875—C. P. Moore.

OUR SHERIFFS, ALSO ELECTED FOR TWO YEARS:

1855—A. C. Towner(appointed.)
1855—W. R. Ellington.
1857—W. D. McCord.
1859—W. D. McCord.
1861—C. H. King.
1863—P. P. Gass.
1865—A. B. Taylor.
1867-'69-'71—J. W. Johnson.
1873—M. B. Cutler.
1875—M. B. Cutler.

OUR TREASURERS, ALSO ELECTED FOR TWO YEARS.

1855—Bela White.
1856—Welcher Cardwell.
1857-'59—J. D. Simpson.
1861-'63-'65-'67—S. Duke.
1869-'71—W. L. Hobbs.
1873-'75—J. C. Cummins.

THE POPULATION,

by enumeration at different periods shows as follows:

Sept. 1855 712.
1856—1251.
1860—3369.
1870—8151.
1874—10397.
1876—10885.

THE VALUATION OF PROPERTY.

as assessed for taxation has been as follows:

1857	$1,662,962.	1868	$1,896,432.
1859	1,096,074.	1869	2,136,835.
1860	975,456.	1870	3,099,856.
1861	1,013,570.	1871	3,704,874.
1862	828,019.	1872	4,016,950.
1863	3,737,184.	1873	3,767,472.
1864	1,137,486.	1874	4,219,960.
1865	1,746,829.	1875	3,593,017.
1866	1,592,678.	1876	2,891,242.
1867	1,729,052.		

The items of this assessment for 1874, the latest itemized list obtainable, is as follows, showing 313,331 acres at an average value of $7.96 per acre:

Land,	$2,492,600.	Wagons and Carriages, (1601),	$ 61,668.
Town Lots,	313,872.	Money and Credits,	85,655.
Merchandise,	104,394.	Mortgages,	27,023.
Manufactures,	39,300.	Stocks,	51,170.
Horses, (5962),	309,943.	Furniture,	20,957.
Mules and Asses, (438),	62,873.	Libraries,	1,680.
Neat Cattle, (15,598),	206,586.	Other Property,	94,742.
Sheep, (659),	1,223.	Railroads,	343,897.
Swine, (25,202),	31,438.	Telegraph Lines,	950.

The foregoing list does not embrace ordinary house furniture, Libraries under $100, tools of mechanics and artisans, but a small share of the agricultural implements on the farm, or the stores of the produce of the farm still on hand; and when it is considered that property is rarely assessed for taxation at more than sixty or seventy-five per cent. of its real value, we may safely add twenty-five per cent. to the foregoing value, which would increase it to over five and one-half millions. In the valuations of the property of Cass County, it will be noticed that there are

GREAT FLUCTUATIONS IN VALUE.

Probably much of this is owing to the various modes of assessment by the different assessors, ranging all the way from one half up the supposed cash value. But this, even wide as the margin is, will not account for the showing of 1862,-'63-'64. From 1862 to 1863 it is more than quadrupled, or increases about four and a half times; and then in the following year, 1864, falls off to less than one third of 1863. One reason for this extraordinary increase of 1863, is that the assessors in the spring of 1863 caught large amounts of property with the crowds coming into the county to escape the draft into the army; and then, as a large portion of this property remained in the County only long enough to be assessed, and then passed on westward, it would in like manner diminish the values of the next year. This movement unquestionably produced considerable change in values; but that it alone worked such changes is hardly credible. The number of acres (313331) assessed in 1874 shows nearly 30,000 unentered, or if entered, not yet liable to assessment, as the County embraces about 339,200 acres. I find no data of the number of acres under cultivation since the U. S. Census of 1870, which gives the numbers as 55,520.

So far as can be ascertained

THE FIRST MARRIAGE

in the county was that of Elza Martin to Sarah Morris, on November 16, 1854, by Abram Towner, and recorded by Joseph Lousignont, Register of Deeds, the first appointment to that office by Governor Cuming.

THE SECOND MARRIAGE

that appears on record was Thomas Hammond to Permelia A. Walker, on May 20, 1855, by L. G. Todd, J. P.; and the third, J. McF. Haygood to Mary E. Brown, Aug. 28, 1855, by W. D. Gage.

THE FIRST WHITE CHILD

born in this county was Nebraska Stevens, son of Wm. Stevens, in December, 1854 or January 1855.

The second, Levina Todd, daughter of L. G. Todd, in February of 1855, now the wife of Thos. J. Thomas.

[It is stated that Samuel Martin and A. J. Todd had each a child born previous to the above, such may be the case, but I can obtain no reliable evidence of the dates of their births.]

From the meager statistics to be found on the subject of

AGRICULTURE

in our county, it seems hardly worth the while to name the subject. That Cass County is one of the best, if not the best agricultural county in the State, is, by all conversant with the subject, admitted; but the statistics to prove this fact are wanting. The early pioneers seem to have taken a deeper interest in the matter of Associations and Fairs than the citizens of later days. Under an act of incorporation by the Legislature of the Territory, an association was organized Aug. 30, 1856, with H. C. Wolph, President; Wm. H. Davis, Secretary; Timothy Gaskill, Treasurer; and a membership of fifty-seven names; each of whom, under the requirements of the Bye-Laws, paid their membership fee of $1. A very interesting fair was held at Rock Bluffs in September, 1856; and again in 1857, with a membership of fifty-two. After this, notwithstanding the earnest efforts and labors of several individuals, the society languished and died. It has been revived in later days, but it is only by persistent and continuous effort of a few individuals that it yet lives. The mass of the people seem to feel but little interest in the matter.

THE PRODUCTION OF THE COUNTY

is large, yet at a most unprofitable cost. Land in new counties is plenty and cheap, and especially in prairie countries, easily opened; and an immediate return to the pioneer for his investment in land is not only desir-

able but often seems necessary: and the great temptation is to bleedthe land to extreme weakness if not to absolute death. That is to open as large an area as he can scratch over, and take what he can get from the land and make no return to it.

The soil is rich, and even the subsoil full of the elements of vegetation; still there is a limit to the best soil, beyond which this kind of farming becomes a dead loss. The returns will not pay for seed and labor, and farm and money invested in it are sunk. The old Virginia farms long since abandoned as worthless; as also to-day the seemingly inexhaustible valleys of the Miamas' and Sciota, of Ohio, prove this position but too plainly. Nor is it necessary to leave our own County for this proof, as of the farms here for only twenty years in cultivation under this system, but few, if any, produce now more than forty to sixty per cent. of their first crops. But this is no time or place for an agricultural essay. Permit me to give you farmers of Cass County a few figures to ponder upon and we will leave the subject.

First, however, I must make an assertion which, perhaps, you will say is not proof. I admit assertion is not proof, but then I have on record the figures, dates and witnesses to make it so, if you doubt it; and this assertion is that any average land in Cass County, farmed as it should be, will produce from 80 to 100 bushels of corn or 25 to 35 bushels of wheat per acre. Let us take 40 acres of our average land to experiment upon. First with average poor farming and its results, and then the same number of acres of good farming; noting, however, that general estimates will not give accurate results for particular tracts of land, as an entire level or table land will wear longer, with less deterioration, than the rolling, and the steeper the swells the more rapidly is the soil transferred by washing and cultivation to the low lands; and again, with hill and valley or bottom included in the same farm, the bottom will perhaps hold its own at the expense of the hill side.

FORTY ACRES OF AVERAGE POOR FARMING.

Plowing (cut and cover) 2½ acres per day, 16 days @ $2.50	$ 40.00
Laying off and planting, 10½ acres per day, 3 17-21 days @ $2.50	9.52
Seed, 11 bushels, @ 50 cents	5 50
Cultivating twice, 6 acres per day, 13⅓ days, @ $2.50	33.33
Harvesting, team and two men, 70 bushels per day, 22 6-7 days, @ $3.75 per day	85.72
Use of land, $3 per acre, continually decreasing in value till worthless	120.00
Average decrease in value, 25 cts per acre	10.00
Total cost	$304.07
Receipts, 40 bushels per acres or 1600 bushels, much of it nubbins and chaffy, at 25 c.s.	400.00
Profit on the 40 acres	$95.93

This profit must grow less and less each year, till it turns to loss, as many fields have already fallen to 30, 25 and 20 bushels per acre.

NOW LET US LOOK AT THE FORTY ACRES OF GOOD FARMING:

20 loads of manure every other year, or 10 loads per acre annually, 400 loads, @ 40c	$160.00
Plowing 1¾ acres per day, 10 inches deep, 22 6-7 days, @ $2.50	57.14
Laying off and planting, as before	9.52
Seed	5.50
Cultivating four times, 5 acres per day, 32 days, @ 2.50	80.00
Hand hoeing	30.00
Harvesting, team and two men, 80 bushels per day, 40 days, @ $3.75, 80 bus. per acre	150.00
Use of ground, although yearly increasing in value	120.00
Total cost	$612.16
Credit by 80 bushels per acre, 3200 bushels, worth 30 cents per bushel	$960.00
Profit, yearly increasing	$347.84

EDUCATION.

The record of our schools are probably as deficient and mutilated as the records of other departments of our history, and what remain have been carried away from the County Seat, and are thus, without time and labor which could not be spared, inaccessible for the purposes of this sketch. Application for information by letter to the present County Superintendent of schools, procured a—promise, nothing more. But were these records accessible and entire, they would not be likely to serve to much purpose here.

The rise and progress of school systems, from pioneer efforts in widely scattered settlements, composed of residents also widely scattered and usually of limited means, present much the same features throughout the whole country. The parent is anxious that his children should be educated, but they *must* be fed and clothed; hence the school must wait for a time. A record would be interesting and valuable, as it might perpetuate the memory of those who have more earnestly and vigorously labored and developed our present system. The means and progress are little other than a repetition of what has occurred in other places again and again.

Under the circumstances I do not see that I can do better than to reproduce a tabulated report, made by Prof. U. W. Wise, late Superintendent of our Public Schools for the County, and kindly furnished to me for this use. The report is as yet unpublished, having been prepared for the State Superintendent at the close of the year 1875.

Figures are generally dry reading but the reader who has but a slight interest in education will will note much of hope and promise as well as much of actual possession in this report. It embraces a comparative showing of progress for four years. It is as follows:

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
Number of School Districts,	75	79	79	81
" " School Houses,	49	60	70	84
" " School Children,	3315	3329	3535	3749
" " Children attending school,	2056	2380	2706	2952
Per cent. of children attending school,	62	71	76	78
Number of Teachers employed,	114	133	136	123
Aggregate number of days taught by all,	7537	9096	9421	10319
Number of visits of Superintendent,	42	117	96	128
" " " of District Officers,	149	227	237	249
District Tax to pay Teachers,	$ 394.51	$ 1221.20	$2488.94	$ 1957.56
" " to erect School Houses,	4735.25	2783.10	7124.23	11869.21
" " for other purposes,	109.90	1110.25	2134.27	8246.12
Money paid for apparatus, &c.,	233.25	141.02	188.00	2169.99
Paid Male Teachers,	6553.18	9519.60	8640.00	10433.96
Paid Female Teachers,	4533.95	5303.27	6573.72	9307.06

[Since writing the above I have received the following items from G. B. Crippen, County Superintendent:

No. of School Houses in Cass County, June, 1876: Stone, 2; Brick, 10; Frame, 67; total, 79.

No. of School Districts in Cass County, June, 1876, 83.

No. of School Children, 4135.

No. of Children attending school, 3342.]

THE FIRST SERMON

preached in the County was in October, 1854, at the house of Thos. B. Ashley by Abram Towner.

HORSE THIEVES AND LYNCH LAW.

I think no well informed and dispassionate person will dispute the proposition that a community will prosper in all their surroundings only as it *enacts* and *faithfully executes* good and wholesome laws."

Yet it is well known that general laws cannot be made to fit with exact justice to special cases; as also, that through the agency of money and subtle lawyers a large proportion of our vilest criminals escape the just penalties of their villainous deeds, while many an innocent person is made to suffer cruel and grievous wrong, or is perhaps brought to a horrible and disgraceful death. This uncertainty in the administration of criminal law has in local many intelligent, and otherwise law abiding citizens to enter upon acts and deeds from which they shrink with aversion and horror; and which, under other circumstances, they would utterly refuse.

The peculiar circumstances attending the stealing of horses, and the facilities for the escape of the thief on the borders of new settlements, has indicated the class of horse thieves as one demanding sure and speedy extinction. From hasty action under this feeling probably many innocent men have suffered; while a much larger number, taken red handed in the act, have speedily been put beyond the reach of further offense.

During several years preceding 1864 a number of citizens of Cass County suffered much loss and hardship from this class of villains. About the first of June of that year, 1864, (some say 1863) two horses were taken from Capt. Isaac Wiles and one from John Snyder, of this county. Pursuit was immediately made. A quarrel between the thieves about the division of the horses induced one of the three to betray the other two. The informer was secured, and on the information given the two were followed and found secreted in a loft at "Mullen's Ranche," on the divide south of South Bend. They were secured and the party returned with them to Eight Mile Grove. In the trial of the men which followed before the self constituted court, there was not, nor could be any denial of guilt. They were horse thieves taken in the very act. No possible mistake in their identity, design or act. A plea was offered for the one who betrayed the other two. But it was considered that, as no repentance or better feeling had induced this action, but only revenge and malice toward his fellow criminals; it gave no shadow of an excuse for sparing him, perhaps to repeat the offence before another day; and without a dissenting voice sentence was passed and followed by immediate execution. And death then and there closed the career of three miserable men.

PRECINCTS.

Previous to 1874, the precincts of Cass County were arranged to accommodate the settlements, but in 1874 the County Commissioners rearranged them, conforming their boundaries to those of the Congressional Townships of the County, except the fractional townships in range 14, which were included in the precincts of range 13, as per map.

PLATTSMOUTH,

the County Seat of Cass County, will be found described in the "History of the City of Plattsmouth."

ROCK BLUFFS,

on the Missouri River, in Rock Bluffs precinct, was settled and laid out about the same time as Plattsmouth, and was for a time a somewhat formidable rival to Plattsmouth, but it is now in a decline. With a population of 175 it has two trading houses, mill, smith shop, and Post Office. Joseph Shera, P. M.

KANOSHA AND LIBERTY,

on the Missouri, below Rock Bluffs, were towns, in early days, of considerable promise. Kanosha with some thirty houses, and Liberty with fifteen or twenty. They are now deserted.

CLEVELAND,

still lower on the river, a town which *was to be* but *never was*.

UNION, OR FOLDEN'S MILLS,

hardly a village, but rather a compact settlement gathered about the Mills, on the lower Weeping Water, in Liberty precinct. Has a population of about sixty, with a Post Office established.

FACTORYVILLE,

also on the Weeping Water, a short distance above Union Mills; has a population of some twenty-five.

WEEPING WATER,

at the Weeping Water Falls, in Weeping Water precinct, was settled in 1857. A mill and a few houses were built, after which, for several years, it had a struggle for existence, till 1869-'70 it was roused up and commenced a new life. It has now a population of some four hundred, six trading houses, a hotel and livery stable, two well built churches, a high school building, and three mills in the vicinity, and a post office.

LOUISVILLE,

at the mouth of Mill or Thompson's Creek, in Louisville precinct, was laid out in 1856, and one log cabin built, and thus slept until 1870, when, under control of Capt. J. T. A. Hoover and brother and the B. & M. R. R. Co., it was re surveyed and commenced life anew. It has now a population of some two hundred, four trading houses, a hotel, station house, on the B. & M. R. R., a grain warehouse, lumber yard, and three smith shops. J. T. A. Hoover, Postmaster.

SOUTH BEND,

in South Bend precinct, also of early date; slept till the Railroad revived it. It has now a grain warehouse, and trading house, and a population of twenty-five or thirty.

EIGHT MILE GROVE,

a close settlement on the corners of the four precincts of Plattsmouth, Rock Bluffs, Eight Mile Grove, and Mt. Pleasant, has a population of about one hundred, two churches, a school house and a Post Office, C. H. King, Postmaster.

GLENDALE,

a traveling Post Office in Eight Mile Grove precinct. After four removals expired in 1875.

GREENWOOD,

on the B. & M. R. R..in Salt Creek precinct,has a population of about fifty, three trading houses, two churches, a grain warehouse, a hotel, two smith shops, school house and Post Office; H. H. Alden, Postmaster.

POST OFFICES.

There are twenty-four post offices in Cass County, sixteen in addition to the towns named, viz.:

Concord and Cedar Creek, in Eight Mile Grove precinct on the B. & M. R. R.

Avoca, in Avoca precinct; Amos Teft, Postmaster.

Belmont.

Bushberry, on sec. 32, T. 11, R. 10; George M. Cudie, Postmaster.

Center Valley.

Eagle, on sec. 8, T. 10, R. 9; A. S. Cooley, Postmaster.

Elmwood, on sec. 23, T. 11, R. 10; Turner Zink, Postmaster.

Luella, in Elmwood precinct.

Maineland, on sec. 9, T. 11, R. 10; A. V. Durell, Postmaster.

Mt. Pleasant, in Liberty precinct; —— Lynch, Postmaster.

Nehawka, on sec. 19, T. 10, R. 13; L. C. Pollard, Postmaster.

Sunlight, on sec. 10, T. 10, R. 9; Edward Post, Postmaster.

Three Groves, in Rock Bluffs precinct.

Union, on sec. 29, T. 10, R. 11; Geo. Cross, Postmaster.

Victoria, in Weeping Water Precinct.

CENTENNIAL SKETCH

OF THE HISTORY OF

THE CITY OF PLATTSMOUTH.

As Plattsmouth was the starting point from which a large portion of the early settlements and organic proceedings of the county originated and radiated, a history of the County necessarily covers much of the history of the city. The first settler, Samuel Martin, with his two log houses commenced the settlement of both county and city, and the details of Martin's precinct are identical with those of the subsequent Plattsmouth City.

CLUB LAW

ruled supreme from June, 1854, to September, 1855, when it weakened some from the presence of the two Justices of the Peace, Allen Watson and L. G. Todd, but still exerted a controlling power for a year or so later.

The first movement on record looking toward the "City of Platts mouth," was the organization of the "Plattsmouth Town Company," Oct. 26, 1854. The first members of this company were Samuel Martin, Jas. O'Neil, J. L. Sharp, C. and L. Nuckolls, and Manly Green. Other members subsequently joined them. In November, 1854, this company proceeded to lay out and plat the City of Plattsmouth. O. N. Tyson was the surveyor of the company, and surveyed and platted the future city In March, following, the company obtained from the first legislature an act of incorporation of the City of Plattsmouth. This was the official birth of the city on March 16, 1855. The town site was entered January 22, 1859.

In the order for a county election issued by Judge Towner for April 10, 1855, he changed the name of the precinct from "Martin's" to Plattsmouth, so that Martin's name now remains only as a name in history. Meantime he had finished his work in the settlement and was laid away with so few attending spectators, that when active search and inquiries were instituted a few years since, by his relatives, for his remains, they failed to find any clue to them. James O'Neil, Esq., states that on a bitter cold winter day he assisted to make a coffin and bury the body on the hill west of the present High School building, on Hays addition to the City of Plattsmouth. The grave is now surrounded by several old time graves.

At the general election on November 6th, 1855, Allen Watson and Moses R. Jackson were elected Justices for Plattsmouth precinct, and Wm. Gullion and Martin Klopinger, Constables. Civil law still, however, playing but a second part in the government of the precinct.

As before said, the two log houses built by, or for, Samuel Martin, in 1853, were the first buildings in the city. They were followed, so far as I can learn, by the third, a log house, built bp T. G. Palmer, on the lot now occupied by Dr. Livingston; the fourth, also of logs, by W. Mickelwait, on the corner of Main and Sixth streets, on the lot now occupied by White's grocery; and the fifth, of logs, also, by Wm. Garrison, on the present site of Major Wheeler's house.

THE FIRST FRAME BUILDING

erected was on the south side of Main street just above where the Platte Valley House now stands, probably on the lot now occupied by Waterman & Son's lumber yard office. It was built for and used as the

FIRST HOTEL IN PLATTSMOUTH.

It was called the "Farmers' Hotel." The foregoing log houses and this hotel were built during the fall of 1854 and spring of 1855.

Three good frame houses were built in 1856 by W. Mickelwait, viz.: the Nebraska House or City Hotel, (this was built for the Plattsmouth Town Company); the house he occupies now; and the one across the street, north of it, for T. G. Palmer. In the same summer, 1856, Messrs. Slaughter and Worley built the old New York Store. The first brick was probably built by Judge A. L. Sprague in 1858 and '59, now used as the Surveyor General's Office; and the second about the same time or a little later by J. Krouth, now owned by E. G Dovey as a store; and the third in 1859-'60 by W. B. Warbritten—on the present site of Fitzgerald's block—used by J. Harper as a store, and later as a public school house.

In 1863 two more bricks were erected, viz.: by Wm. Herold, south of the bridge on Second street; and Tootle & Hanna's store, lately occupied by E. T. Duke & Co. as a Hardware store, as also by the First National Bank of Plattsmouth. In 1864 Wm. Herold added the fifth, on the site of the old Barracks. Tootle & Hanna's store, the Masonic Block, in 1865, and John Fitzgerald's block on the corner of Main and Sixth street are structures of which no city need be ashamed.

The first hotel has already been located. The second was built by Wm. Hyatt in 1856 and named the "Farmer's Home." It is now used by Mr. Gramberg as an office for his lumber yard. The third hotel was the "Platte Valley" by Wm. McCarty, built in the spring and summer of 1857.

OUR TRADERS AND MERCHANTS

have mostly been of a transitory class, soon passing on, and have seldom done much for Plattsmouth. They have been and still are slaves to the pernicious credit system which prevails to a great extent the world over; and has probably been the cause of as much, if not more pecuniary loss to the country than any other single cause. Credit is sometimes, perhaps, an advantage to honest men. But the inherent evils of the system, leading to careless and reckless contracting of wholly unnecessary debts, and the utter ruin often following are fearful.

Again, the merchant who sells on credit must exact enough, over and above the value of the article sold, even to the cash dealer and those who do pay, to balance the loss on those who do not pay, or else go to the wall. Hence the evil reaches all classes, and all suffer by it.

Let any one curious on this subject examine our court records for the three or four years past and he will there find a history of wide spread ruin and distress among our honest meaning but short-sighted, hard working farmers; as also of too many of our other citizens stripped either voluntarily in their anxiety to pay their debts; or by the Sheriff of every thing not exempt by law: and very many, tortured by the constantly accumulating load of debt, mortgaging their teams, tools and implements, farms and *homesteads*, and that, but too generally, only to delay the hour of being thrown out upon the world homeless and destitute.

In 1857 I was sued by a Plattsmouth merchant on a credit of four weeks' standing. It was paid the next day with costs and that was

THE LAST CREDIT

I have received in Nebraska or elsewhere. I do not speak of this as a boast, for I have been as poor and needy as any working man in Cass County. My farm team for eighteen months was one small horse, till he

died from a snake bite. Then, by exchange of work with neighbors, I struggled along till I yoked a two year old steer with a three year old, both calves raised from the same cow. I have suffered privations exceeded by few, if any, but I had sworn that I would never contract a debt again, even to the amount of one cent in any case whatever, and my oath is as yet unbroken. Could the mass of our citizens have made and adhered to the same resolve; or the merchant utterly refused any credit, sharp and severe temporary distress might have ensued, but the ruinous results of to-day, brought to a crisis by the scourge of grasshoppers, hail, &c., would have been avoided. This may not be considered a creditable portion of our history, and probably many would advise its suppression. I view it differently. If it shows an evil it is not peculiar to our city or county, but it is broad spread as the country, and deeply rooted as time and habit can make it.

Our laws of homestead and exemption reserve all the necessary means of profitably pursuing their various avocations to our citizens and a *home* which, without their own consent cannot be wrested from them. Yet how many of our citizens have within the past year seen the poor debtor searching from house to house and from office to office, to procure the loan of small sums of money with which to pay off his debts(unpaid by reason of evils beyond the control of man) and mortgaging his teams, his homestead and *all*; thus yielding, and often losing, all the rights secured to him and his family by law; because he was too honest to avail himself of them, and thus defraud his creditors; yet too simple to avoid the curse of debt which has thus worked his ruin. Deeply as we may deplore the blindness which caused the debt, we cannot but glory in the honesty that pays it at such a cost.

We have counted up about thirty firms that have opened and done a trading business in Plattsmouth, besides a host of smaller dealers, groceries, saloons, &c.

Samuel Martin headed the list, who was probably alone till he died, December 15th, 1854. Slaughter & Worley succeeded him in the same old Barracks, till they had built and finished the old "New York Store" in the fall of 1856, when they moved into it.

During the summer of 1856 Garrison, Griffith & Co., erected the store now occupied by Dr. W. E. Donelan as a Drug store, and put in goods in the same fall or early winter. This house has been re-covered and repaired, but unlike the long lived jack-knife of several new blades and handles, contains much of the original material. The firm of Garrison, Griffith & Co., was subsequently changed to Nuckolls, Garrison & Co., and then

to Garrison & Jones; and I am strongly tempted to add that a more complete swindling shop never had place in the city.

Joseph Harper was probably the next in succession. He bought out Mr. Mickelwait's house on the corner of Main and Sixth streets, added a room to it, into which he put goods for sale.

These men and most of their successors have passed on and disappeared. The credit system compells this movement. However honest and upright the merchant may be, if he sells on credit, a collection day *must come*, and the distress attending collections destroys his popularity and business, so that the general course is to sell for a few months, or possibly years; then close up, put his accounts in an officer's hands and ——vanish.

POST OFFICE.

The first Postmaster in Plattsmouth was Wheatley Mickelwait, Esq., and it is said by some of the irreverent that the post office was in the said Wheatly Mickelwait's hat. I think this statement liable to grave doubts, as this said hat, as I recollect it, was so largely ventilated that it was subject at any time or place to a wholesale and broadcast delivery. But he was surely appointed Postmaster in the Fall of 1855. But after a while, perhaps from finding the P. O. building not fully reliable, transferred it to Slaughter & Worley's store, with Worley as deputy.

W. Mickelwait was succeeded by O. F. Johnson, who kept the office in the old Barracks. Mr. Johnson was succeeded by our present P. M., who first kept the office in Dr. G. H. Black's late office, next door below Dovey's store. He then moved up to the Court House, and from there to Fltzgerald's block, and thence to its present location. This, I think, is the only one of our public offices in the city where all the successive officers have remained and still remain to day residents of the city.

THE FIRST MILL.

A saw mill was erected by C. Heisel early in 1856; an attachment was added by which some flour was made in the fall of the same year. It was subsequently moved, rebuilt, and by August, 1857, was doing a good business as a Saw and Flouring Mill. Sarpy's Flouring Mill was built in the summer of 1862.

THE FERRY.

One of the seventy acts of incorporation of our first Legislature was that of "A Ferry across the Missouri at Plattsmouth." The parties included in this act were W. Mickelwait, J. O'Neil, J. L. Sharp, J. G. Palmer and L. Nuckolls, and their associates. This charter was dated

March 1st, 1855. Several other parties were more or less interested in this ferry, but for a large part of the time W. Mickelwait seems to have been a kind of "head center" in it. A flat boat was run up to August, 1857, when the "Emma" was put on; followed by the "Survivor" in 1858, the "Paul Wilcox" in the fall of 1859, and later by the present "Mary McGee." The several disasters befalling these boats I have not sufficiently mastered to attempt to describe them.

PHYSICIANS.

In 1856 Drs. E. A. and W. E. Donelan opened an office in Plattsmouth for the practice of medicine. After some years E. A. Donelan left, but W. E. Donelan still remains at his post, the only instance of a professional man who from so early a day upon "roll call" can answer "present." Dr. Livingston came in the fall of 1859; Dr. G. H. Black in the fall of 1861; Dr. Schildknect in 1862; and Dr. John Black in the spring of 1863. These constitute our present medical faculty.

ATTORNEYS.

I can count up but twenty who have displayed their shingles here as "Attorneys at Law." I judge it cannot be a good place for the profession or else that the good lawyers did not come here. D. H. Wheeler can date back farther than any other member of the Bar who has made a continuous residence here; but we can hardly call him a good lawyer, inasmuch as the larger part of his time is and has been devoted to other business. As it is more pleasant to talk about good places and good men, than the reverse, we will only add to the subject—good bye.

There is no interest connected with human life of equal importance or moment to that of

EDUCATION,

both religious and secular; and yet but few are generally met by and treated with as much indifference by the mass of the people.

Educational movements and progress are almost universally the result of individual persistent effort, gradually leavening the mass and in a manner forcing co-operation. This is a strange characteristic of humanity, the why and wherefore of which is hard to determine. But the correctness of the statement may by some be doubted or disbelieved. We hear much on every side of education, and there seems to be much general anxiety on the subject. Advance the proposition that there is no more important subject, and you can get up no argument; every one agrees with you. Where then is your proof of this indifference? Let us

apply the test of works and deeds to the question and note the result. The church is open weekly, at the least, and often daily, for religious instruction; what proportion of the people ever enter the doors for the unmixed purpose of instruction or even of worship? I leave the answer of this question to you. Again, the school house door is ever open for our children, and what proportion of them are voluntarily ever found there? Under the united efforts of school officers and teachers, urging constantly the necessity and importance of attendance, as also absolute force by law in many cases, as also many other varied means to induce attendance, and our school statistics show an average attendance of but little over one half of our children. What would it be if left to voluntary action alone?

Now, let the discovery of a new gold field, an election where party spirit runs high, a circus exhibition, or even a saloon fight, be announced, and have you to talk, urge, reason and demonstrate that time and money expended in these directions will be repaid with ample interest? Oh no! Before you can frame a thought into words, the man is off like a shot for the attractive object; all consideration of cost, returns, &c., utterly ignored. Now yet again approach this same people with the announcement of the deep and never dying interest of the soul. The intense enjoyment; the ever enduring gratification and benefit, even to the cent per cent. money profits of secular education; and where now is the excitement and enthusiasm? Is it any longer a question of doubt? I think not. The result, however mortifying, can not be questioned.

The early history of educational efforts in Plattsmouth are equally obscure with those of the County, and a show of what we have now in possession is about all I can reach. I have been kindly assisted by Dr. Livingston, of the City Council, and Thos. Pollock, Clerk of the School Board, to the following synopsis of the present state of our City schools, as also to the "rules and regulations" adopted by the Council for their government.

Three Ward school houses each cost	$1,000
One High School building, cost,	$25,000
Furnace, furniture, apparatus, &c., cost about,	$5,000
Number of school children,	681
Number enrolled,	555
Average attendance,	433
Number of teachers employed,	8

All the grades are now taught in the High School building, except the First and Second years of Primaries, which are taught in the Fourth Ward school house.

FOURTH WARD SCHOOL.

Number enrolled,..... 70
Average attendance,..... 60

The grades taught in the High School building are, First and Second Primaries of all Wards excepting the Fourth; the Third Primary, the First and Second Intermediate, and the High School and Grammar Grades.

FIRST PRIMARY.

Number enrolled,..... 87
Average attendance,..... 64

SECOND PRIMARY.

Number enrolled,..... 50
Average attendance 42

THIRD PRIMARY.

Number enrolled, ... 79
Average attendance,..... 67

FIRST INTERMEDIATE.

Number enrolled,..... 59
Average attendance, ... 55

SECOND INTERMEDIATE.

Number enrolled, ... 85
Average attendance,..... 70

HIGH SCHOOL AND GRAMMAR GRADES.

Number enrolled,..... 105
Average attendance,..... 75

Total number of pupils in High School building,..... 465
Average attendance,..... 373

Teachers in High School building, ... 7
" in Fourth Ward school,..... 1

The High School building is seated throughout with the best patent seats. The school is fully equipped with Maps, Charts, and Apparatus, including Ritchie's best set of philosophical apparatus, also Queen's best Astronomical Telescope and Microscope, two twenty inch Globes, Orrery, Tellurium, &c.; and a full supply of apparatus for Gymnastic exercises.

In the High School Grade the following studies are pursued, viz.: Algebra, English Composition and Literature, Physiology, German, French, Latin and Greek, Geometry, Geology, Trigonometry, Chemistry, Botany, General and Ancient History, Mental and Moral Science, Astronomy, Zoology, Science of Government, American Literature, and Roman Antiquities.

The person who has resided in the vicinity of Public schools and not heard frequent complaints and talk of abusive and wrongful acts of teachers, as also of remissness or neglect of school boards, and of worthlessness of schools, has lived where I have not.

One of the deepest feelings inherent in our nature is that for the entire control of our own children; and as the public school system must necessarily transfer that control and authority for a portion of the time to other parties, and these parties teachers, usually strangers, who, we are sure, *cannot* understand and appreciate the peculiar disposition and character of *our* children, and are therefore unfit to have the control of them; and a reproof or punishment, which administered by ourselves, perhaps, with double violence and yet is forgotten in a few moments, if given by the teacher becomes a deep-seated and lasting injury. Even the most reasonable and best balanced mind finds a spirit of jealousy and antagonism developed in himself in spite of all efforts to resist it; and although reason and judgment may compel him to submit to this divided control, it may be at the expense of much private suffering. The minds of less reasoning and more excitable parents, are of course proportionably more deeply moved, and their action less restrained.

The age is progressive, and the half dozen studies which, when mastered, even forty years since, completed and perfected the common school education, have now swelled to some two dozen in our city schools; and the parents educated under the old system "pish" and "pshaw" at the "flummery," "fanfarade," and nonsense. They were educated under the "good old system." It was "good enough for them," and "made them *what they are*," and "what is good enough for the parent is good enough for the child." I confess to a kind of surface emotion of sympathy with this feeling.

Some twenty years of my earlier life was devoted to the charge of schools, teachers, and general educational interests; and although in the later portion of this life some innovations were made upon the good old course of Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography, (and Latin and Greek were allowable in parties preparing for College), they conflicted too much with the old standard to be cordially welcomed. I had a deep personal interest in the new studies, but they seemed out of place in the school room. It is hard to make new impressions on old fossils.

To-day under the action of such consideration and reason as I may be able to summon, I would remit no effort for a thorough basis on the elementary studies, nor would I place any limit to any positively demon-

strated knowledge; I would as soon deny the use and developement of physical as mental powers. And yet the largely increased and increasing number of studies now before the world are far too extensive to be crowded into the usually alloted school age; but the pupil well grounded in elementary branches is prepared to continue his studies during at least the remainder of his life.

So far as I may be able to judge of the

COURSE OF STUDY

adopted by the City Council for our city schools. in 1873, and now pursued; it could not well be improved. It embraces many studies unknown to our old schools, yet, as adapted to the circumstances and situation of the present of equal importance to any of them. No pupil is obliged to undertake or finish them all, but he must be sufficiently versed in what he does undertake, to enable him to go on with the course and extend it according to his ability in after life.

UNDER THE CHARTER OF MARCH 16, 1855,

a city government was organized by an election on December 29th, 1856, at which Wheatly Mickelwait was elected Mayor, and Enos Williams, W. M. Slaughter and Jacob Vallery, Aldermen. This City Council met and proceeded to business January 29, 1857.

August 5th, 1857, P. L. Wise, J. N. Wise, and W. W. Thomas were appointed by the Council a committee to "prepare rules for the city offices." We will not suppose that the city officers were a particularly ungovernable set, or unable to draft their own rules. Possibly the heavy burdens resting on their shoulders in those days made it necessary to call in outside help.

On December 7th, 1857, the Council voted each member an annual pay of $100. There were six sessions of the Council held during the year, as shown by the journal, and this paid only the small sum of $16⅔ per session. But then this was eked out by special appropriations for extra committee services.

A SECOND ELECTION

on January 4th, 1858, placed E. A. Donelan in the Mayor's chair, and J. D. Simpson, T. M. Marquett and J. Harper in the Aldermen's seats. J. H. Brown was Recorder; B. Spurlock, Treasurer; C. B. Cooper, Marshal; F. Clements, Assessor; and C. M. Lewis, City Engineer.

On September 16th, 1858, a petition signed by W. M. Slaughter and fourteen others, was presented to the Council, asking that the "Old Bar-

racks" be removed. It was referred to the Committee on City Improvements, composed of J. D. Simpson ann J. Harper. The record shows no report from the committee as yet.

On September 18th, 1858, J. Harper resigned his position as Alderman and J. W. Marshall was appointed in his place.

At the third annual election, January 7th, 1859, E. A. Donelan was re-elected Mayor; J. D. Simpson, J. W. Marshall, F. Clements, David Sampson, W. E. Donelan, and J. C. Cummins were elected Aldermen; the amended City Charter allowing five Alderman instead of three, but by mistake the City understood that the number was increased to six and elected six. D. H. Wheeler was elected Recorder.

On April 6th the error in electing six instead of five Aldermen was discovered, and a new election called; the result of which was W. B. Warbritton, John Patterson, F. Clements, David Sampson and T. M. Marquett as Aldermen.

In May of 1860 the Council, in session, burned $3,650 in scrip, previously issued by the city to supply the want of change.

At the fifth annual election in January, 1861, W. B. Warbritton was again returned as Mayor, for the second time; Enos Williams, J. Patterson, W. Pottinger, Lloyd Lucas and J. Vallery, Aldermen; W. T. Ethridge, Recorder; A. H. Townsend, City Attorney; and W. E. Donelan, Treasurer.

After holding eleven sessions and entering into several important contracts, besides doing much general business: it was proved that at the election, John Campbell, fearful that the election was not going off just right, took the quiet hour of dinner to re-arrange the votes in the ballot box. As this way of "fixing" things was not considered legal, the election was declared null and void, and a second election called. In which in April, 1861, W. E. Donelan was elected Mayor: E. Williams, W. P. Davis, W. Pottinger, J. N. Wise and J. H. Buttery, Aldermen; J. H. Brown, Treasurer; A. B. Barr, Marshal; C. Schlater, Assessor.

April 26, 1861, an Ordinance was passed for paving the sidewalks of Main street from Second to Sixth street.

In April, 1862, an ordinance was passed confirming the contract for the Plattsmouth Cemetery, and S. S. Billings, J. N. Wise, M. L. White, E. F. Donelan, and T. K. Hanna were appointed as a Board of Trustees.

April 16th 1862, the retiring Council voted to pay each Councilman $25 for the *past year's* service. This example seems not to have produced its proper effect upon our national politicians. If it had, much paper and ink might have been spared on the "salary grab."

The old Council Records recall many interesting movements and incidents of the past, which, but for such a reminder, would soon pass utterly from recollection; but as other subjects press forward for notice I must with even briefer extracts close this part of our city record.

The succeeding Mayors, after Dr. W. E. Donelan, were, in order, Thos. K. Hanna, in 1862; W. H. Spratlin, in 1863, till September, when he left the city, and M. L. White was elected for his unexpired term, as also for 1864; C. L. Cooper for 1865 and 1866.

In March, 1866, a "Board of Health" was created for the city, in view of the threatened approach of the Cholera. The entire medical force of the City was appointed on this "Board," viz., Drs. Livingston, G. H. and John Black, and Donelan. A movement of doubtful benefit, if the old adage about the disagreement of Doctors has a good foundation. Yet so far as the record shows they worked with zeal and harmony, and no doubt did much to keep the threatened pestilence at bay.

In January, 1867, J. N. Wise was elected Mayor to fill the unexpired term of C. L. Cooper.

In April, 1867, as also again in 1868, W. Pottinger was elected Mayor.

In May, 1868, the Council entered upon the unlucky business of buying the steam ferry boat "Paul Wilcox" for $9,000 in City Bonds. It was wrecked in July following.

In 1869 D. H. Wheeler was elected Mayor; followed in 1870 by Ambrose Lazenby; in 1871-'72 by M. L. White; and in 1873-'74-'75-'76 by Dr. R. R. Livingston.

RAILROADS.

The earliest settlers of Plattsmouth, as soon as they became acquainted with the topography of the country, saw at once that some town near the south bank of the Platte, and near its junction with the Missouri, must eventually become an important railroad point.

A railroad *must* run up the Platte Valley. On the nort side the hills and rocky points fairly projected into the Platte, or approached so near that a road bed would be very difficult and expensive for a long distance. While the south side was far more open and level; hence Plattsmouth must be this R. R. point.

I think there was no R. R. at that time ('54) operating west of the Mississippi that pointed in this direction. But the B. & M. R. R. Co. had already been talked up, perhaps organized, and the settlers at Martin's

trading post with "Sharp" eyes (no pun intended) saw the point. The Plattsmouth Town Company was organized as previously related, and proceeded to secure the site for a town. This, as first entered seems to have been confined to Sec. 18, Town 12, Range 14, a fractional section containing 295 acres. Additions have since been made on every side, but the east, where the river has operated upon the reverse rule, of subtraction, to considerable extent. On the north White and Townsend, on the west, Young, Hayes and Duke, and on the south Thompson and Styles have each made additions, amounting in all to some 675 acres.

The city surveyed, platted and incorporated, and it was a poor talker who could not talk "rail road." A number of lots and depot grounds were set aside and reserved for R. R. purposes. The first official action on record, other than to watch and guard the R. R. lots, was on Feb. 5th, '59, to vote to Dr. Livingston "six city lots as compensation for services previously rendered to the city, in working up the rail road matters, solely for the city's use, inasmuch as he had no property in the city." And again, Feb. 19th, 1859, the Dr. was appointed on behalf of the city to go to Burlington and see what could be done there in the matter. These movements, followed up by constant agitation, resulted in a special election in Plattsmouth April 24th, 1869, when $50,000 in Bonds was voted by the city, and donations made by individual citizens of a large number of city lots to the B. & M. R. R. Company on condition that the Company should erect here, and maintain depot, shops, and general fixtures, making and continuing Plattsmouth the headquarters of the Company in Nebraska; putting the road through to the west end of the county, all in good running order and actual operation, within sixteen months after June 3d, 1869. These conditions were accepted by the Company, and the contract closed by W. Thielson, the authorized agent of the Company, and the City Council, June 15th, 1869. From this time action instead of talk was the order of the day, and early in July, in presence of a large crowd of spectators, John Fitzgerald, as Knight of the Spade, at the foot of Main street, in Plattsmouth, displayed his strength and skill in "breaking ground" for the R. R. Track. In September, 1869, in a still larger and more excited crowd, the

FIRST LOCOMOTIVE,

the "American Eagle," was landed and gave her first scream on Nebraska soil. The long wished, and long listened for whistle was now a matter of unquestionable fact upon the streets of Plattsmouth.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in Plattsmouth was the Plattsmouth *Jeffersonian*, by L. D. Jeffries, assisted by J. D. Ingalls, who finally succeeded Jeffries as publisher. The *Jeffersonian* was first issued, probably, early in 1857.

Late in 1858 or early in 1859 the Platte Valley *Herald* was started by Alfred Thompson, who had published the Platte Valley *Times* at Pacific City, Iowa, but changed the name *Times* to *Herald* about the time he moved it to Plattsmouth.

A few months after the establishment of the *Herald*, E. Giles moved the Cass County *Sentinel* from Rock Bluffs to Plattsmouth.

The *Sentinel* died out or was sold out to Jos. I. Early, who for a short time issued the Democratic *Times*.

In February, 1865, H. D. Hathaway started the Nebraska *Herald* and continued it till it passed into the hands of the present publisher, Jno. A. MacMurphy.

In November, 1870, Fox & Fullilove issued the Cass County *Democrat*, which was succeeded by the Nebraska *Watchman*, F. M. Mac Donagh, editor.

The *Deutsche Wacht* was started in the fall of 1875, but after a few months was sold out to Jno. A. MacMurphy.

For short periods some of these papers have appeared as Dailies, but the support has not justified a long continuance.

The religious organizations in the city are,

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

organized June 29th, 1857, with twenty members, by the appointment of L. G. Jeffries, Wm. McCarty and Ezra Bradford as Trustees, and the Rev. Hiram Burch as first Pastor. In June of 1860, Bradford and Jeffries having removed, S. Duke and B. Spurlock were elected to fill their places. The successors of Mr. Burch in the Pastorate have served in the following order, viz.: Reverends Philo Gorton, J. Spelman, M. Ambury, J. G. Miller, David Hart, J. B. Maxfield, J. J. Roberts, J. W. Presson, Charles McKelvey, M. Adair and Mr. Orr, the present incumbent. The Trustees and Stewards, since 1860, have been S. Duke, J. Throckmorton, B. Spurlock, M. L. White, G. H. Black, Joel Parcell, N. Jeans, R. M. Clark, N. R. Sharp, W. K. Montgomery, E. Davis, and others. The membership in 1869 was about ninety; the present about eighty.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

was organized in 1870 with five members and Rev. Frederick Alley, Pas-

tor. A church was erected and finished clear of debt. In 1872 Mr. Alley was succeeded by Rev. Roswell Foster, and in 1873 by Rev. Mr. Manwell. The society was disbanded in 1874, with a total membership of thirty-five.

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Bishop Talbot visited the city and held the first service here August 3d, 1860. J. A. Hagar, the first clergyman to hold regular service here, commenced June 16th, 1861, and was succeeded by Rev. Geo. C. Betts, March 19th, 1865. November 27th, 1864, the Parish organized under the name of "St. Johns"; Wardens and Vestry, John Black, John Pattimer, Wm. H. Anderson, D. H. Wheeler and Wm. Ford.

A donation in 1865-'66 from Mrs. Jeptha Young, of St. Luke's Church, in New Jersey, induced the change of the name St. John's to St. Luke's and enabled the Church to erect a Rectory in 1865, and a Church in 1866-'67. The first services held in the Church building were on May 12th, 1867. The church was dedicated by Bishop Clarkson, and assistant clergy, June 16th, 1867. July 15th Rev. Henry St. George Young was settled as Rector of the Parish. He has been succeeded by Rev. H. C. Shaw, in November, 1871; Rev. A. R. Graves, November, 1872; and H. B. Burgess, the present incumbent, in 1874. One hundred and five communicants had been enrolled up to 1873.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Rev. Mr. King, in the summer of 1857, preached the first sermon, and Rev. D. L. Hughes, in early spring of 1858, the second. Mr. Hughes succeeded in an organization of the society in May, 1858, with sixteen members. He continued his services until 1864. Rev. J. V. Demorest succeeded him in 1865. In March, 1866, Rev. Mr. Cole commenced his services. He was followed, September, 1867, by Rev. C. D. Roberts. Rev. D. W. Cameron became first settled Rector. He was succeeded in 1872 by Rev. W. T. Bartle, and he in May, 1875, by Rev. J. T. Baird, the present incumbent. The present membership is about sixty.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The first church building was erected in 1861, but there was no regular Priest or services until '62, when Father Teckachet came and remained until '64. He was succeeded by Father Emanuel until the Spring of '70. Father Hays then had charge till '72. He was succeeded, first, by Father Bobal, and then by Father Jennett, until May, '76. Since which time the church has had no regular Priest. In the Fall and Winter of '75-'76 the new church building was erected. The total membership about 275. The present membership is about 175.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

was constituted October 17th, 1856, with ten members. The Deacons of the Church, elected from time to time, have been Elias Gibbs, Moses R. Jackson, Thomas L. Kirk, and John Jackson. The following named persons have successively served the Church as Pastors, Elias Gibbs, R. S. Brenton, E. W. Hall, C. A. Miller, P. McLeod, and T. J. Arnold. The society owns a church building, erected in '72 at a cost of $1800. It is at present without a pastor. The membership has varied from ten to forty, the present number being about twenty-five.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Church was organized in May, 1859, by Elder T. J. Todd, with fourteen members. It was visited by Elder Charles Evans. The ministers engaged in the Church service have been as follows, Elders J. Conoren, D. R. Dungan, P. Vogel, M. Comes, G. B. Mullis, C. Alton, and S. B. Bass, the present incumbent. The church has been visited by Elders O. E. Brown, Wm. Tate, Dow Cook, R. C. Barrow, Charles Herd, Geo. R. Hand, Truax, Thomas, Bush, Yearnshaw, Chancellor Benton, Judge Dunham, Judd, and Watson. Thos. J. Todd has acted as Elder ever since the first organization of the Church. Elder Samuel Eikenbery, now deceased, M. L. Phillips, and Isaac Wiles, Elders and Trustees; Jonathan Beckner and Thos. Wiles, Deacons; and Thos. Wiles, Clerk. Total membership, one hundred and three; present, forty-six.

Active members of the different religious organizations have kindly furnished the material from which the foregoing brief items were compiled.

THE FIRST SESSION OF DISTRICT COURT

held in this city is alleged by some to have been in the *first school house*, built in 1856, on the hill in the southwest part of the city, near Judge Gass' residence. It was held in April, '56, by Judge Edward Harden; A. C. Towner, Sheriff; and M. W. Kidder, Clerk.

It is said that the Grand Jury held their session in the grove adjoining. This, considering the season, looks somewhat doubtful, yet may have been so; but as the names of the jurors, both Grand and Petit, as well as the proceedings of the Court are missing, we will dismiss the subject.

THE FIRST SETTLER

and the first burial in the city have been previously noticed.

THE FIRST BIRTH IN THE CITY

was Fred. Mickelwait, on March 9th, 1855, and although it seems to have

been a good time to have been born, judging from the young man's present size and weight, I learn of no other births in the city for some time subsequently.

There were several marriages in the County in 1855 on record but no information recorded by which to ascertain whether they were married in the city or not.

These sketches have already been extended far beyond the original design, yet we cannot close them without a few words upon

COMPANY "A" OF THE FIRST NEBRASKA.

Early in the Spring of 1861 the news of the firing upon the "Star of the West," by the Rebels in Charleston harbor, produced such an intense excitement throughout the country that words no longer furnished a sufficient escape valve for the indignation of the people. Acts and deeds alone could answer now. And in March, before any call had been made by the Government for troops, Dr. R R. Livingston, of Plattsmouth, issued posters, notices, &c., for meetings, speakings, and for volunteer enlistments, leading on the roll with his own name as private. The company was soon made up, and on June 11th, 1861, mustered into the service of the United States.

Previously, however, while yet at Plattsmouth, the ladies of the city, many of whom were interested and engaged in the matter, procured material and made up two beautiful flags, and through the Rev. Philo Gorton presented them to the company. Dr. Livingston, who had been elected Captain of the Company, received the flags, and in return made a highly landed and eloquent reply, and caused the entire Company to kneel and swear ever to cherish, follow and protect these flags.

I regret that I am unable to learn and record the names of all the ladies engaged in this inspiring God-send to the soldiers, but have obtained only the names of Mrs. J. D. Simpson, Mrs. Moses Dodge, Mrs. O. F. Johnson, Misses Mollie and Sadie Minshall, Sarah Baker, Mrs. Dr. Donelan, and Mrs. Clements.

I also give the names of the members of this pioneer band in the war for the Union, omitting a few who by misdeeds and desertions disgraced the company and the flags they had sworn to cherish and protect:

OFFICERS:

Robt. R. Livingston, Capt.		J. W. Carruthers,	1st Corporal.
A. F. McKinney, 1st Lieut.		John Hess,	2d "
N. J. Sharp, 2d Lieut.		Ben. Hemple,	3d "
John G. Whitelock, 1st Sergeant.		W. B. Hart,	4th "
Geo. D. Webb,	3d "	Wm. L. Wells,	6th "
Daniel E. Kidder,	4th "	E. L. Reed,	7th "
Wm. W. Kennedy,	5th "	Frank G. Kendall,	8th "

Robert A. Collins and O. S. Thompson, Musicians.
Geo. Hardwick, Wagoner.

PRIVATES:

Aughe James E.	Green Calvin C.	Pool Wm. H.
Brown Stephen J.	Herring Delevan S.	Powers Henry C.
Barr J. Wesley	Hyatt Alvin	Peters Sam.
Boyce James	Haygood J. McF.	Pratt A. G.
Berlin Fred	Irish Wm. H.	Prehn J. J.
Burris S. B.	Johnson Jos. W.	Randall Henry C.
Bates Wm. H.	Keeze F. E.	Rose Cyrus
Bates Israel F.	Kinneman Richard	Smith Laurence
Bain Wm M.	Levi H. L.	Smith Hy. F.
Colvin John W.	Lamaster John	Shin Asa
Chalfant Wm.	Montgomery Wesley	Sharp Jos. G.
Child Everard S.	Mullen Joel R.	Thompson Jacob
Carmichael Jacob E.	McMakin Andrew C.	Tozier Albert E.
Donovan Edward	Moore Wm. C.	Wister John W.
Ducota C. C.	Monterey Adolphus	Wolcott Fred
Decker Benj. C.	Marquett T. M.	Williams Ceylon
Gester Thos. E.	Parcell F. G.	Wahl John

In honoring the ladies who made and presented the flags, I would add that as there was a sharp rivalry as to which company in the Territory should receive the honor of the name "A," the ladies worked all night to enable our company to obtain this distinction.

METEOROLOGY.

As the general welfare of a country depends to so large an extent upon its Meteorological conditions, I am induced to append a summary of the more important features of a record of ten years past. I should prefer carrying it back to an earlier date; but my earlier record was made in a form which will not compare, without much correction with the later, and then the corrections could not be applied so as to be always reliable.

The Meteorological year commences December 1st, instead of Jan. 1st,as this divides the seasons into more natural periods than the common Civil year. The subsequent tables, unless otherwise indicated, are constructed on this principle, as for instance, Dec. 1, 1866, begins year 1867.

TABLE "A."

The mean temperature of the several months of ten years past, 1866 to 1875, inclusive; the mean temperature of each year; and the amo nt of snow, rain, and melted snow, in inches.

Year.	DECEMBER. (1865.)			JANUARY. (1866.)			FEBRUARY.			MARCH.			APRIL.			MAY.		
	Mean temp	Snow	Rain.	Mean temp	Snow	Rain.	Mean temp	Snow	Rain.	Mean temp	Snow	Rain.	Mean temp	Snow	Rain.	Mean temp	Snow	Rain.
1866	22.20		.75	16.40			22.75	6.60	6.60	29.44	4.85	2.30	51.61		3.19	60.20		2.88
1867	23.31	8.60	4.65	14.49	15.10	2.70	22.90	1.60	1.84	16.91	9.50	2.12	45.65		2.80	55.27		8.25
1868	27.65	5.25	.85	11.09	8.00	.85	24.00	6.00	1.15	43.85	1.45	2.75	45.54		3.60	65.02		8.20
1869	19.35	15.50	2.10	23.58	8.00	1.30	27.51	11.25	2.45	32.55	2.25	.60	50.16	.75	2.45	60.59		6.55
1870	28.25		2.20	21.58		1.40	32.32		1.00	32.57		1.60	54.56		2.70	67.05		5.80
1871	28.05		1.00	25.02		.05	31.50		1.60	42.80		.40	56.30		1.80	66.80		2.10
1872	20.04	7.03	.75	18.96	2.50	.30	29.30		.10	32.70		1.40	47.70		2.40	57.10		4.40
1873	16.08	7.10	2.10	13.13		1.60	23.09		.60	36.37		.60	45.22		15.80	59.11		19.00
1874	22.25		1.60	19.92	5.00	.65	20.09	12.35	1.55	32.15	10.25	2.51	44.65	.90	4.09	67.48		3.15
1875	25.58	4.85	.80	7.71	4.91	.38	11.56	7.75	.90	29.11	13.75	3.38	41.81		4.62	63.42		3.98

Year.	JUNE.			JULY.			AUGUST.			SEPTEMBER.			OCTOBER.			NOVEMBER.		
1866	68.01		5.05	77.80		2.80	72.32		3.22	57.32		5.65	53.08			38.75		1.65
1867	72.33		3.15	75.32		4.70	75.05		1.70	66.58		1.57	52.25		1.05	38.90	.75	.05
1868	72.03		5.00	83.68		3.00	69.58		6.30	57.35		2.35	49.67		1.90	33.92	6.50	1.90
1869	68.70		9.05	73.39		7.50	75.19		8.60	62.60		5.20	42.07		.75	35.26		1.40
1870	74.20		2.10	82.10		2.00	69.90		3.66	66.30		6.60	53.60		2.30	42.09		
1871	76.60		2.30	76.40		14.10	74.60		3.30	62.20		1.30	53.69		1.20	34.00		3.20
1872	73.06		4.70	75.17		7.40	74.53		.30	62.37		4.10	50.91		4.06	30.91		.70
1873	75.08		4.80	75.54		6.40	77.98		1.00	61.27		2.20	48.16	.70	1.60	36.95		.45
1874	74.31		18.05	82.35		1.10	78.71		1.40	64.35		11.13	54.14		2.11	34.81	2.75	1.80
1875	71.20		13.78	74.13		6.72	69.68		8.10	62.34		5.63	48.86		1.35	30.66	.50	.01

TABLE B.

In the following table we have the mean temperature of the seasons and years, as also the total snow and rainfall, including melted snow.

Year.	Seasons.	Temp. of Seasons.	Temp. of Year.	Yearly Snow.	Yearly Rain and Melted Snow
1866	Winter.	19.90	47.53	11.45 ins.	4.10 inches.
	Spring.	47.63			8.34
	Summer.	72.78			11.95
	Fall.	49.75			7.31 31.70
1867	Winter.	20.15	46.67	35.55	6.14
	Spring.	39.20			13.17
	Summer.	74.31			9.55
	Fall.	52.57			2.65 31 51
1868	Winter.	20.83	48.84	27.20	2.85
	Spring.	51.53			14.55
	Summer.	75.13			14.36
	Fall.	47.00			6.15 37.85
1869	Winter.	21.61	47.42	39.00	5.85
	Spring.	47.75			9.60
	Summer.	72.44			24.55
	Fall.	45 10			7.35 47.35
1870	Winter.	22.14	46.61	22.00	4.60
	Spring.	46.17			9.50
	Summer.	70 00			9.10
	Fall.	47.64			8.93 32.10
1871	Winter.	22.28	46.82	18.00	2.25
	Spring.	39.52			4.60
	Summer.	74.97			19.70
	Fall.	42.94			5.70 32.25
1872	Winter.	22.81	45.69	12.80	1.85
	Spring.	37.80			7.70
	Summer.	74.22			13.00
	Fall.	47.71			8.80 31.35
1873	Winter.	17.75	47.58	10.06	4.30
	Spring.	46.92			35.50
	Summer.	76.22			12.20
	Fall.	48.79			7.45 49.45
1874	Winter.	20.88	49.81	38.35	3.80
	Spring.	48.13			9.75
	Summer.	78.50			20.52
	Fall.	51.15			15.04 49.11
1875	Winter.	15.06	45.09	29.26	2.08
	Spring.	45.55			12.48
	Summer.	74.67			28.70
	Fall.	47.31			6 96 50.22

The winter season in the above table includes December, January and February. Spring the next three, &c.

TABLE "C."

Gives the date of each day, from 1861 to 1876, inclusive, on which the mercury of the Thermometer has fallen below zero, as also the degree. December being taken as the first month of the succeeding civil year. The usual sign — denoting below zero.

TABLE. C.

1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868
Jan. 20, -20°	Dec. 23, - 6	Jan. 16, -10	Nov. 27, - 2	Nov. 22, - 2	Dec. 5, -10	Dec. 11, - 1	Nov. 29, - 7
" 21, -24°	" 27, - 3	Feb. 2, -10°	" 28, - 9	Dec. 7, - 6	" 12, - 6	Jan. 1, - 8	Jan. 6, - 8
" 23, - 3°	Jan. 9, - 8	" 5, - 5	" 29, - 4	" 8, -16	" 13, -20	" 6, - 2	" 7, - 2
" 24, - 6°	" 11, - 2		Dec. 14, - 4	" 9, - 7	" 14, -16	" 9, - 3	" 8, - 6
" 25, -13°	" 12, -13		" 30, - 2	" *10, -10	" 15, -15	" 21, - 3	" 9, - 6
" 27, -12	" 13, -12		" 31, -24	" 11, -14	" 16, -10	" 26, - 4	" 11, - 6
" 31, - 6	" 14, - 7		Jan. 1, -23	Jan. 22, - 1	" 21, -18	" 27, -10	" 12, - 1
Feb. 7, - 7°	" 15, - 8		" 2, -15	" 24, -10	" 22, -30	" 29, - 1	" 15, -19
" 8, - 3°	" 17, -17		" 3, - 5	" 25, -10	" 28, - 8	Feb. 8, - 3	" 16, -26
	" 18, - 2		" 4, - 4	" 26, -10	Jan. 16, -15	" 9, -10	" 17, -25
	" 30, - 7		" 5, -10	" 27, - 7	" 17, -16	" 20 - 4	" 18, -13
			" 6, -15	" 28, -10	" 18, -13	" 21, -10	" 20, - 8
			" 7, -39	Mar. 2, - 5	" 19, - 8	" 23, - 2	" 21, - 8
			" 8, - 6	" 4, - 6	" 20, -18	" 24, - 6	" 24, - 3
			" 9, - 8	" 9, -17	" 21, - 5	Mar. 12, - 9	" 27, -16
			" 10, -10		" 24, - 6	" 13, -20	" 29, -15
					Feb. 4, -10	" 14, - 9	" 31, - 8
					" 12, -17	" 16, - 1	Feb. 2, - 5
					" 14, -12	" 17, - 1	" 6, -12
					" 15, -32	" 24, - 1	" 8, - 5
					" 16, - 4		" 9, -22
					Mar. 15, - 1		" 10, -12
							" 11, - 3
							" 28, -10

* December 10th, 1865, David Jardine froze to death.

TABLE C. (Continued.)

1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876
Dec. 8, - 9°	Jan. 8, - 7°	Dec. 21, - 4	Nov. 29, - 6	Nov. 27, - 4	Dec. 3, - 1	Dec. 28, - 3	Nov. 21, - 1
" 9, - 8°	" 16, - 4	" 22, -11	Dec. 3, - 6	" 28, - 1	" 20, - 7	" 29, -10	" 29, - 7
" 10, -14	" 17, - 7	" 23, -16	" 4, -12	" 29, - 5	Jan. 4, - 3	Jan. 2, - 5	Dec. 17, - 8
" 11, -30	" 18, -13	" 24, - 9	" 19, - 1	Dec. 9, - 3	" 14, - 6	" 3, - 1	Jan. 10, - 2
" 23, - 5	Feb. 19, - 8	" 26, - 3	" 20, - 1	" 16, - 1	" 15, -10	" 4, -10	Feb. 1, -12
" 24, - 8	" 20, -12	Jan. 13, - 9	" 25, - 6	" 20, - 5	" 23, - 8	" 5, -18	" 3, - 1
Jan. 25, - 2	Mar. 8, - 2	" 14, - 4	" 26, - 4	" 21, -20	" 24, -14	" 6, - 8	" 4, - 3
Feb. 4, -10	" 14, - 5	" 17, - 4	Jan. 23, -10	" 23, -20	Feb. 9, - 1	" 8, -19	Mar. 20, - 4
" 22, - 1	" 15, -11	" 18, - 7	" 24, - 2	" 24, -16	" 23, - 4	" 9, -21	
" 27, - 7°		Feb. 9, - 7	" 25, - 6	" 25, - 3	" 24, - 6	" 10, - 9	
Mar. 4, - 2		" 10, - 2	" 27, - 5	" 26, - 8		" 12, -11	
" 6, - 5		" 12, -10	" 28, -11	" 27, -10		" 13, -20	
" 15, - 4		" 13, - 3	" 31, -12	Jan. 8, - 3		" 14, -19	
			Feb. 12, - 1	" 9, - 9		" 15, -10	
			" 13, - 6	" 10, -14		" 16, - 1	
			" 14, - 5	" 16, - 8		" 18, - 7	
				" 17, -17		" 30, - 3	
				" 18, - 7		" 31, -10	
				" 24, - 7		Feb. 2, - 4	
				" 27, - 8		" 3, -12	
				" 28, -23		" 4, -21	
				" 29, -14		" 6, - 6	
				" 31, - 7		" 7, - 7	
				Feb. 1, -10		" 8, - 2	
				" 2, - 4		" 9, - 2	
				" 20, - 3		" 15, - 1	
				" 22, - 4		" 17, - 9	
				" 23, - 2		" 25, - 7	
				Mar. 3, - 4		" 27, - 1	
						Mar. 3, - 3	

In these sixteen years only twice as low as 32° and four times to 30°.

During the same period of 19 years, embraced in table "C," the mercury has risen to 100° and upwards as follows:

1857. July 15, 102°, August 5, 100°, August 13, 101°.

1859. July 14, 101°.

1860. July 15, 100°, July 20, 104°, July 24, 100°.

1861. August 3, 100°, August 4, 104°, August 5, 104°.

1866. July 23, 100°, August 6, 101°.

1868. July 18, 100°, 20, 106°, 21, 100°, 28, 101°.

1873. August 30, 101°.

1874. July 7, 102°, 8, 105°, 14, 103°, 18, 100°, 23, 104°, 24, 107, 25, 113°, 31, 110°, August 9, 100°, 10, 111°, 19, 100°, 21, 102°.

The excessive heat of these two months, is I think unparalelled on any record ever made in the United States. During this period of 19 years, eleven have passed without raising the mercury to 100 degrees.

The degree of heat indicated by the thermometer will vary much according to its location and position. In a narrow valley, or a street closely built up, with little or no wind, or sun, the cold air settles, and the thermometer will indicate less heat by several degrees than on a level with the surrounding country. And again, with a bright sun, the reflection and radiation from the sides of the valley, or from the buildings and streets may raise it several degrees. Hence the general level of the country is the position to obtain the heat of the general atmosphere.

Wind however high, has no effect upon the mercury, except as it displaces the general body of the atmosphere, and introduces one of more or less heat. Yet upon our bodies it produces much effect, by removing the heat generated within.

With a high thermometer, say from 80 degrees, and not above blood heat (98 degrees), a brisk wind springing up produces a cooling sensation, as though the mercury was falling, while it may be continuously rising.

The wind removes the animal heat from our bodies and replaces it with cooler air; till the surrounding air is up to 98 degrees or above, when instead of feeling cool and soothing, it only aggravates our distress, and increases the heat.

Let us go out early in a clear mid-winter's morning—there is no wind, everything is still—stimulated and toned up by the bracing air; we exclaim what a fine—what a beautiful morning!

The heat generated in our bodies remains confined in our clothing, and around us; and were it not for open and exposed points, as ears, nose and fingers, whispering "Rather cold," we should pronounce it a warm, pleasant morning.

As we go in, we cast an eye at the thermometer, and are astonished to see it indicates extreme cold, perhaps 20 degrees below zero. We can hardly credit the truth of the indication.

Two or three hours pass, and we go out again; with the rising sun, the wind has risen; it blows fiercely; we shrink from it, with "Oh how bitter—how fearfully cold," and hasten indoors to avoid freezing. Again we look at the thermometer, to see what lower depth it has fallen, and lo, it has *risen* ten, fifteen, or twenty degrees! The wind now sweeps the heat from our clothing, and the surface of our bodies, and leaves us exposed to the cold air some 100 degrees colder than our bodies.

The body is a very unreliable thermometer, unless observed with reason and judgment.

The force or velocity of the wind is now generally rated on a scale of 10, as follows:

1. Indicates a very light breeze of two miles an hour.
2. Indicates a very gentle breeze of 4 miles an hour.
3. Indicates a very fresh breeze of 12 miles an hour.
4. Indicates a very strong wind of 25 miles an hour.
5. Indicates a very high wind of 35 miles an hour.
6. Indicates a gale of 45 miles an hour.
7. Indicates a very strong gale of 60 miles an hour.
8. Indicates a very violent gale of 75 miles an hour.
9. Indicates a hurricane of 90 miles an hour.
10. Indicates a most violent hurricane of 100 miles an hour.

This velocity is measured and registered by a rather costly instrument named an Anemometer.

Without an Anemometer, the observer notes the direction from which the wind comes, and estimates its force as 1, 2, 3, and 6. This observation and record is made three times a day—the same as with other meteorological instruments. In table "D," I give a summary of these observations for the year 1874.

TABLE "D."

Direction and force of winds for the year 1874:

	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.	Total.
Dec. 1873.	14	2	3	9	22	7	14	25	96
Jan. 1874.	14	6	3	5	55	11	2	39	135
February.	21	7	5	19	17	10	7	19	105
March.	30	23	8	28	13	20	16	12	159
April.	13	30	6	58	23	8	11	19	168
May.	4	14	4	64	68	5	8	15	182
June.	0	2	5	59	63	10	8	13	160
July.	8	6	27	26	74	15	10	6	172
August.	21	6	55	37	26	7	1	4	157
September.	14	5	16	28	17	25	9	20	134
October.	6	4	12	11	33	20	25	17	128
November.	25	2	6	5	43	22	7	31	141
Total.	170	107	150	349	454	165	118	220	1733

By exchanging the totals of March and April, as also by transferring 50 from the total of South, to the total of North, and this gives nearly the mean of ten years past.

ADDENDA.

The Probate Judges for Cass County, elected for two years, were Abram Towner, appointed; H. C. Wolph; Charles West; Robert Clark; E. T. Harmon, who died some ten days afterward; D. H. Wheeler, appointed; J. W. Marshall, appointed and then elected; W. D. Gage; A. L. Child; H. E. Ellison; W. H. Newell.

COUNTY SURVEYORS:

Wm. Young, three terms; A. B. Smith, three terms; Geo. W. Fairfield, two terms; P. C. Patterson; Wm. Young, two terms more.

IN CONCLUSION.

Many, whose names and deeds have equal claim to notice, and perhaps better than many of those which appear in the foregoing sketches, may feel wronged, and possibly imagine offense intended in their omission.

To such let me say, intentionally or knowingly I have wronged no one. Our early records are many of them badly mutilated and others entirely missing. I have made a most thorough search of them and could build only of such material as I could find. In many cases I have believed that individuals were conspicuous actors where no record of their names was left, and wrote to them personally for information. Some promptly furnished the information sought, and thus enabled me to record it. Others made no response whatever. Whose fault is it if their names and acts are omitted? Memory and recollection are unreliable data for transactions of twenty years past; and often very contradictory. Yet in many cases they are the only guide that is left. I have sifted and harmonized as far as possible, yet sometimes I may have been led by them into error.

A. L. C.

AN APPENDIX

From the Records and Files of the

PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION OF CASS COUNTY, NEB.

On November 29th, 1875, in pursuance of a call through the Nebraska Herald, for a meeting of the Old Settlers of Cass County, Nebraska, the following persons met at the Court House, to wit: R. R. Livingston A. L. Child, Thomas Thomas, Wm. S. West, G. H. Black, P. P. Gass, C. P. Moore, J. W. Haines, Miss Julia Child, C. Ripple, E. Donovan, and D. H. Wheeler.

On motion, A. L. Child was elected Chairman, and D. H. Wheeler, Secretary.

After a general interchange of views and opinions, a committee, consisting of R. R. Livingston, D. H. Wheeler, Thomas Thomas, Wm. S. West, and G. H. Black, was appointed to draft a Constitution, By-laws, &c., for an "Old Settlers' Club."

On December 7th, 1875, a second meeting adopted a Constitution and By-laws, which, by subsequent amendments, are as follows, viz.:

PIONEERS ASSOCIATION OF CASS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This association shall be known as the "Pioneers' Association of Cass County, Nebraska."

Art. 2. The leading objects of this association shall be the procuring of, and record of Statistics, History, Privations, Incidents and Adventures of the first settlers in Cass County, Nebraska. Thus reviving the recollections and sympathies of the past; strengthening the old bonds of union, and transmitting the record of the hardships of those fast passing away, to future generations.

ART. 3. The officers of this association shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, Recorder and Treasurer.

ART. 4. The oldest settler, as shown on the association records, and who has conformed to the requirements for membership, shall be the President of the association during his life time; and in his absence the oldest settler present shall be President pro tem.

ART. 5. The two Vice Presidents shall be the two members present at any meeting of the association next in age to the President, ranking according to priority of settlement as first and second Vice Presidents. The terms "age," "old" and "oldest" as applied to any member of this association, should be understood as referring to date of settlement.

ART. 6. The President shall be assisted in the discharge of his duties by the two Vice Presidents, who shall take seats, at each meeting, on his right and left.

ART. 7. The duties of President and the two Vice Presidents shall be those usually required of such officers in similar associations.

ART. 8. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, keep a just and regular account of the same, and pay the same out only upon the order of the association.

ART. 9. The Secretary shall keep a full account of all proceedings at any meeting of the association, and shall receive all moneys and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

The Recorder shall make an Historical Record of all such papers as shall be furnished him by the Revising Committee; and shall be ex-officio Secretary of the Revising Committee.

ART. 10. Any person who made an actual settlement in Cass County, or Nebraska, prior to January 1st, 1861; and who has resided in Nebraska; and is at the time of his application for membership a resident of Cass County, may become a member of this association by furnishing the Secretary with the date of his or her settlement, paying to the Secretary an admission fee of fifty cents (50 cts.) and subscribing to the Constitution and By-laws of this association.

Provided, 1st, That no lady shall be called upon to pay a membership fee, or to pay annual dues. 2d. The association shall have power, at any regular meeting, to admit any person as an honorary member by a three-fourths vote of the members present. Said honorary member being admitted to all the privileges of the association except voting.

ART. 11. Any person giving to the association a false date as to his or her settlement, with the intention of deceiving the Society, shall be considered dishonored, and shall be held to be unworthy of membership,

and shall be expelled by a majority vote at any meeting of the association.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting of the association; provided that notice of said proposed change shall have been given at a meeting of the association, at least one week preceding action on said amendment.

BY-LAWS.

ART. 1. There shall be two regular meetings of this association each year.

One annual meeting on the last Tuesday in November of each year; at which the Secretary, Recorder and Treasurer shall be elected; and one semi-annual meeting on the last Tuesday in May. And such called and adjourned meetings as may be found desirable. All such meetings shall be held at the County Seat of the County, and be opened at 1 o'clock P. M., unless otherwise directed by the association.

ART. 2. Auxillary associations may be formed in each precinct of the County, which auxillaries shall report to this association at each regular meeting.

ART. 3. There shall be two committees appointed at each regular meeting of the association. One, of one member from each precinct in the County, whose duty it shall be to collect, write out, and report to the Revising Committee all such hardships, incidents, adventures, and anecdotes of early days as will best exhibit the labors, trials, privations and pleasures of the old pioneer.

The second committee shall consist of three members, and shall be styled the Revising Committee, whose duty shall be to receive all reports and communications from the precinct committees and members of the association, and revise the same, as the best interest and harmony of the association may require; and then file the same with the Recorder, who shall record them in the Historical Records of the Association.

ART. 4. The President of the association shall annually appoint a Finance Committee and an Executive Committee, each of which shall consist of five members, a majority of either of which shall be empowered to act.

The Finance Committee shall audit all accounts against the association, and no bill shall be ordered paid unless the same shall have been favorably reported upon by said committee.

The Executive Committee shall have power to call the association together, and shall control any business required to be transacted when the association is not in session, unless otherwise provided for. All accounts against this association shall be presented at a regular, called, or adjourned meeting of the association, and be referred to the Finance Committee to be audited; when, if audited, the Secretary shall draw an order on the Treasurer therefor, which order shall not be paid unless signed by the President and attested by the Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to call a meeting of the Association upon the request of the Executive Committee, or any five members of the association.

ART. 5. An annual contribution of Twenty-five cents shall be paid by each male member to defray the expenses of the association; payable at the regular November meeting. Credit on the Secretary's book of such payment shall entitle those so credited to vote at any meeting of the association during the year following.

ART. 6. Any offensive remarks, reflections or allusions to any member, by another member, during any meeting of the association, shall be deemed out of order, and persistent offensive remarks, or violations of the rules of the association, shall subject the offender to exclusion from the association.

ART. 7. The order of business at each meeting of the association shall be, unless otherwise ordered by the association:

1. Reading the minutes of the last regular, adjourned and called meetings.

2. Report by the Secretary of all dues and membership fees paid by members since last annual meeting.

3. Reading of record of Revising Committee.

4. Elections and appointment of Committees, (if any are pending.)

5. Reports of such experiences as members have in mind, or have been reminded of by reading records and reports of the Revising Committee.

6. Miscellaneous business.

ART. 8. These By-laws may be altered or amended by a two-third vote of the members present at any meeting of the association. Provided that notice of said proposed change shall have been given at a meeting of the association, at least one week preceding action on said amendment.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	PRESENT AGE	DATE of SETTLEMENT IN STATE & COUNTY.	P. O. ADDRESS.
Daniel H. Wheeler,	41	June, 15, 1856,	Plattsmouth.
Charlotte A. Wheeler,	39	July, 21, 1857,	"
Wm. L. Wells,	34	April 26, 1857,	"
A. L. Child,	65	April 16, 1857,	"
Wm. Gilmour,	72	1854,	"
Wm. S. West,	63	June 19, 1856,	"
John W. Haines,	49	June, 1857,	"
M. B. Cutler,	40	August 16, 1857,	"
W. H. Schafer,	52	May 25, 1854,	"
J. W. Jennings,	37	November 21, 1855,	"
F. M. Dorrington,	37	June 20, 1856,	"
Thomas Thomas,	81	July, 1856,	"
Wm. Young,	67	November 3, 1854,	"
P. L. Wise,	55	May 21, 1856,	"
J. W. Marshall,	44	May 1, 1857,	"
J. G. Hayes,	69	August 17, 1856,	"
A. B. Todd,	54	May 25, 1857,	"
E. R. Todd,	42	May 25, 1857,	"
B. Albin,	47	December 5, 1854,	"
Ben. Hempel,	49	March 18, 1859,	"
A. L. Sprague,	48	June 15, 1858,	"
Wm. Gilmour, jr.,	38	1854,	"
Jennie R. Wells,	30	May, 1859,	"
J. C. Gilmore,	43	May 9, 1858,	"
John A. MacMurphy,	58	In Bart Co., April, 1857,	"
J. McF. Haygood,	53	October, 1854,	Rock Bluffs.
B. Siebold,	42	June 1, 1857,	Plattsmouth.
T. J. Todd,	73	May 25, 1857,	"
Levi Walker,	72	August 25, 1854,	"
Abram Hull,	55	March, 1857,	"
Julia E. Child,	25	June 28, 1857,	"
E. E. Cunningham,	37	May 15, 1857,	"
Geo. E Pronger,	46	June 12, 1853,	"
Mrs. Susannah Thomas,	60	July, 1856,	"
C. H. King,	58	June, 1859,	Eight Mile Grove
L. W. Patterson,	33	August, 1854,	Plattsmouth.
Mary Patterson,	33	August, 1854,	"
Geo. W. Fairfield,	50	September 29, 1856,	"
Thos. Wiles,	31	Fall of 1854,	"
Samuel L. Thomas,	41	September, 1856,	"
F. D. Lehnhoff,	45	May 18, 1859,	"
Bradford Cole,			
A. B. Taylor,	45	May 16, 1857,	"
E. S. Sharp,	40	March, 1854,	"
Mary E. Todd,	35	1856,	"
W. H. Smith,	48	July, 1857,	Rock Bluffs.
V. M. Beaver,	34	August, 1856,	Concord.
Henry Eikenberry,	40	May 10, 1856,	Plattsmouth.
Joshua Gappen,	49	December 25, 1856,	"
Joshua Murray,	42	October 1, 1854,	Rock Bluffs.
L. F. Johnson,	42	September 10, 1856,	Plattsmouth.
Wm. Herold,	44	October 15, 1855,	"
Mrs. E. C. Streight,	34	November 25, 1858,	"
Mrs. S. A. Thomas,	34	October 13, 1859,	"
Mrs. Eliza Siebold,	36	November 15, 1854,	"
Lewis H. Young,	53	March 7, 1855,	Three Groves.
Mrs. Sarah Young,	51	March 7, 1855,	" "
Mrs. E. M. Walker,	45	March 14, 1855,	Plattsmouth.
Amanda M. Miller,	47	May 18, 1855,	"
Mrs. M. C. Dorrington,	33	January 1, 1855,	"
L. C. Johnson,	37	September 10, 1856,	"
Mrs. Lou S. Johnson,	36	October 13, 1859,	"
Mrs. Sarah A. Livingston,	67	May 20, 1857,	"
E. J. Craig,	30	September, 1860,	"
Anna Craig,	17	September, 1860,	"
Mrs. M. M. Richardson,	52	October 24, 1856,	"
Mrs. Mary Haines,	55	June 26, 1857,	"
W. L. Tucker,	47	May 7, 1856,	"

NAMES OF MEMBERS.	PRESENT AGE	DATE of SETTLEMENT IN STATE & COUNTY.	P. O. ADDRESS.
Mrs. S. E. Tucker,	44	May 7, 1856,	"
Mrs. Nancy E. Patton,	23	March 13, 1855,	"
Mrs. Maria Gappen,	46	November 6, 1856,	"
Mrs. Cora W. Child,	64	June 10, 1857,	"
Mrs. Elizabeth Herold,	35	October, 1854,	"
Geo. W. Thomas,	26	September, 1856,	"
Geo. D. Amick,	45	October, 1856,	"
Shadrach Cole,	58	June 5, 1857,	"
Jacob Vallery, sen.,	..	April 10, 1856,	"

The members of the Plattsmouth Brass Band, of which more hereafter, in response to their most excellent music on the occasion of a Pioneers' Re-union on September 16th, 1876, were unanimously received by the Association as honorary members, notwithstanding two of them, L. F. Johnson and S. L. Thomas had been previously received as members under the regular forms.

THE HONORARY MEMBERS

are Lorenzo F. Johnson, Samuel L. Thomas, Geo. W. Thomas, L. D. Johnson, L. C. Johnson, Fred Black, and H. W. Sage, of the Brass Band; and the Rev. H. B. Burgess.

PRESIDENT.

By the provisions of the Constitution, W. H. Shafer, the member who made the earliest settlement in Cass County, May 25, 1854, is the President of the Association. E. S. Sharp made an earlier settlement, March, 1854, but so far has not been an active member. Wm. Young and Benj. Albin are Vice Presidents.

THE ELECTIVE OFFICERS.

Wm. L. Wells was first elected Secretary, and on his resignation J. A. MacMurphy was elected, and still remains as Secretary. Thomas Thomas was first elected Treasurer, and again re-elected to the same office. A. L. Child elected and still remains Recorder.

On the occasion of the

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

on July 4th, 1876, by the citizens of Cass County, the Pioneers' Association was invited to join in the celebration, and assigned a leading position in the procession to the selected grounds. The Association accepted of the invitation, and in order that its members might be distinguished in the crowd, procured

BADGES.

in form and description as follows:

1860.	PIONEERS' ASSOCIATION. JULY, 4, 1876.	1876.

On arrival upon the ground the Association was conducted to reserved seats upon the stand.

In response to these honors bestowed upon the Association, that body, at a meeting held on July 8th, unanimously

"*Resolved*, That the earnest thanks of the Pioneers' Association of Cass County be tendered to the officers of the Centennial Celebration on July 4th, 1876, for their recognition of the claims of the Association, as also for their kindness and courtesy on that occasion. And that we most thankfully appreciate the kind remarks and allusions of the orators and speakers of the day. The Association also tenders its hearty congratulations to the citizens and officers of the day on the entire and unalloyed success of the celebration."

August 19th, 1867, a meeting was called to consider the question of a

PIONEERS' RE-UNION OR PICNIC.

A second meeting followed, at which it was resolved to hold a Reunion on the Centennial grounds, near Plattsmouth, on September 16th.

To add interest to the affair a few individuals, who in 1856 were members of the first brass band that ever played in the Territory of Nebraska, volunteered to re-organize the band, and prepare music wherewith to regale the Association on that occasion.

Mr. Thos. Thomas, under the inspiration of the hour, produced the following rallying cry for the pioneers:

THE PIONEERS.

Of Pioneers we are a band,
  Who came in early days;
In search of homes in the Indian land,
  And settled here to stay.

On young Nebraska's rolling plains,
  Hardship and toil we've shared;
And here we now have met again,
  To share a feast prepared.

Come one come all, old settlers, come,
  In love and liberty:
And make this day the special home
  Of joy and pleasure free.

Free to think and free to speak,
  Let's all in union join:
This social feast we'll seek to make
  Enduring on our minds.

On September 16th, the Association formed a procession on Main street, and with flags and banners, preceded by the band, marched to the grounds.

The exercises of the day were opened by prayer by the Rev. H. B. Burgess. Music, speaking, a most bountiful supply of the "creature comforts", and regular business followed.

L. F. Johnson, S. L. Johnson, L. D. Johnson, L. C. Johnson, Geo. W. Thomas, Fred. Black and H. W. Sage, members of the brass band, after much labor, drill, and expense for instruments, were well prepared with many pieces of old time music, which with the repeated singing of "The Pioneers" by the whole crowd, to the air of "Auld Lang Syne," added much to the enjoyment of the day. It was altogether a very happy one, and one which we hope may be many times repeated.

At the various meetings of the Association many communications have been read by the different members, portraying early experience, trials, incidents, anecdotes, &c., from which we select a few.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS OF EARLY LIFE IN NEBRASKA.

BY WM. YOUNG.

On the night of the third of November, 1854, I camped with my family near a spring in the grove where I now live: and next morning cut logs and laid a foundation for a house, and staked out my claim. I then returned to my home, near Glenwood, in Iowa.

On March 5th, 1855, I moved my family onto my claim, bringing all my stock, even to a few stands of bees, as they were the only living things that could save the honey that for ages had gone to waste on our boundless plains.

For a few days our home was in a tent, while we were building a cabin, which we covered with clapboards. Soon after we had got into our cabin two Indians came wading through the snow, and came in to warm. They stayed all day, and, as it was still snowing hard, wanted to stay all night. They slept by the fire till morning and then traveled on. And now for breaking and fencing our farm. The breaking was done with ox teams; the fencing was a ditch for a year or two, then a hedge around fifty six acres, the farm of the first year. The hedge was subsequently extended around the most of my land, and it has served not only for a fence, but I have cut cords of wood from it, besides fence posts and poles.

In the Government survey the lines cut my land both ways, and I now eat on one quarter section and sleep on another. The line running through my bedroom.

When the land came into market, as I had used my pre-emption right in Iowa, five different men entered my land, and I had to buy them out at high figures, paying forty per cent. for the money to do so with; and still lost sixteen acres with the hedge around it which I had cultivated three years, thus by taking a block out of the corner, leaving my farm in a bad shape.

Soon after I moved on to my claim a double wedding occurred at John Clemmons' while he lay on his death bed. His two daughters were married at the same time by Abram Towner. The old gentleman died a few days afterward, being the second death of the settlers. (Samuel Martin being the first.)

In the first county election the writer was elected County Surveyor, and surveyed the first county road, from Plattsmouth to Weeping Water, fourteen miles. The first circuit rider was Elder Gage, and the first camp meeting was in Buck's grove. The first celebration was at Rock Bluffs, where we often met with our guns to drill and talk about Indians. Gen. Thayer met with us sometimes. We took one scout up the Weeping Water, in search of Indians, and camped over night, but saw none. In those times wolves, wild cats, and rattlesnakes were plenty; but by help of dogs and guns the wolves and wild cats were exterminated. We, with the help of a good dog, killed two large buffalo wolves with an axe.

AN INTRODUCTION TO NEBRASKA.

BY A. L. CHILD.

On April 16th, 1857, in company with a son of fourteen or fifteen years of age, and a son-in-law, I arrived at Glenwood, Iowa, on my way to Cedar Creek, in Cass County, Nebraska. Learning, at Glenwood, that the Missouri river was very high, covering the bottom from bluff to bluff, and that there was no possible crossing for our teams here, we turned northward to Council Bluffs, where there was a steam ferry.

The road followed the high lands for a while and then descended to the Missouri bottom, where, for long distances, it was covered with water. Toward night the weather turned cold and snow began to fall. We found refuge in an old "dug out," probably evacuated by some squatter in the

rush for Nebraska in 1854. It was large enough to shelter both ourselves and team. Some wood gathered, a roaring fire built, and we very much enjoyed our *home comforts.* But some water must be had for our supper operations. Surely there was plenty of it, for the river, of some four or five miles in width, reached within a few feet of our shelter; but we had to wade out some twenty or twenty-five rods before we could find depth enough to get what we could call water, and even then it was largely of mud. The snow fell all night and through the following day, and with a fierce northwest wind it became very cold.

We reached Council Bluffs before noon of the 17th, and there found the little town swarming and overcrowded by emigrants, like us, for Nebraska. They were also blockaded by the river. An old channel between the ferry landing and Council Bluffs was filled and had become a rapid river of some thirty feet in width. No boat or skiff was left to cross teams or even footmen; and till this was crossed we could not reach the ferry boat. It was understood that the ferry company were at work to open communication, and all we had to do was to wait. The river bank was an open, bleak place, the wind was blowing fiercely and the air filled with blinding snow. Yet hundreds stood and waited there all day, in their impatience to get over.

Many boxes of matches were sacrificed, and much persevering effort directed toward raising a fire with the wet and sodden brush in and near the water. An occasional blaze would raise a shout, and a dash of wind and snow would drown every spark, and the shout would then be replaced by very emphatic, and sometimes rather ugly words. Chilled through and through by the bitter storm, impatient and tired of waiting, we detached a horse from the team, on which my boy mounted, and put him at the stream. The horse with a jump and plunge went out of sight in the water, the boy's head alone remaining visible. The horse rose and struck out for the opposite bank, on reaching which the horse was turned about and started back, but, no longer directed by the reins, turned off down stream. We followed and secured him some distance below. A race of a mile or two over the prairie to restore the almost frozen horse, a thorough rubbing down, blankets, and a distant stable closed that experiment. Meanwhile, the boy was having a *cool* time, also, trying to shelter himself in his saturated clothes, behind some old fireless cabins, with an occasional foot race to restore the almost frozen circulation. At length a skiff was brought from the ferry boat, and the footmen crowded over, and we were soon sheltered in the Douglas House at Omaha, where, that night, it

would have puzzled a spectator to have selected from the mass of crowded and mixed limbs, on any floor of that house, the proper ones belonging to any one body.

The team and son-in-law were left at Council Bluffs till the team could be got over. On the next morning, April 18th, the sun shone out bright and clear, and my son and I started on foot for the Platte. On the level, where undisturbed by the wind, the snow lay about sixteen inches deep, but over the prairies it was drifted and piled in the usual way of such storms. As what tracks and roads had then been made over the prairies were all covered and hid by the snow, we, with regard to only an occasional view of the bluffs and timber on the south of the Platte at Cedar Island, made as straight a line for them as we could. Huge drifts often turned us to right or left, and made a long and hard road to travel. The white and dazzling snow reflected the bright rays of the sun in our eyes and faces till we were sunburned and almost blind. Still we pushed on, reached the Platte, found the ferry, paid $1 a piece for crossing, and just after dark found our way up to Samuel Hahn's cabin, near the top of the bluffs; the door stood open, displaying a bright fire upon the hearth. Utterly exhausted and worn out, we waited for no ceremony but, Indian like, walked in without leave or liberty, and demanded food and shelter. Mr. Hahn replied that his wife was sick and abed, that he himself was but little better, yet had but just finished a large washing. They had but a trifle of food in the house and knew not when or where the next could be found; and, although he much regretted it, he could not accommodate us. We replied that we equally regretted his difficulties, but, unless removed by force greater than our own, we neither could, would or should go one step further that night; rest and sleep, for which the floor would answer all purposes, we *must have*. Further explanation disarmed him of his first somewhat hostile feelings, caused by our unceremonious entrance. Food and rest and a very pleasant acquaintance followed. On the morning of the 19th, when ready to start, Mr. Hahn directed us south, over the unbroken plain of dazzling snow, for about a mile, where a trail from Plattsmouth, westward, passed, which, if found and followed, would lead us to the settlement of old friends on Cedar Creek.

We wandered over many a mile, through the snow, and found no vestige of a road or trail. We then turned in a northwest direction for the high land overlooking the Platte, which, when gained, we followed to the valley of Turkey Creek. We there found a cabin and learned that we were but little over a mile from our destination, which was soon reached.

We were confined for a day or two with our badly burned faces and

eyes, but on the 22d got out and selected our claims for a *home.* On that day, April 22d, I found snow drifts, in ravines, over twenty feet deep, which were not thawed away till late in May.

Such was my introduction to Nebraska and Cass County.

A JUSTICES COURT OF CASS COUNTY IN 1857.

BY A. L. CHILD.

In August, of 1867, a Justice of the Peace, just elected for the first time, who for the present must be nameless, had convened his first court. (Please forget just now the old old story which, by some is attributed to "Our Dan," of the "mighty mean men who could get office here."

The plaintiff had alleged that the defendant had done and performed acts and deeds in violation of the statute made and provided in such cases.

A summons, *commanding* the Constable to bring the offender into court, then and there to answer for his misdeeds, had been issued, as also for a jury of six "true and good men, freeholders of the County," to aid and assist the Court in the punishment of the outlaw.

Jury and witnesses were very solemnly sworn, and the Court—with a deep sense of the gravity and weight of responsibility resting upon its shoulders as a "Magistrate," and perhaps an occasional thought of the rulings and decisions then and there to be made, as precedents in the future courts of Nebraska—was extracting from the witnesses mainly what they *did not know*, when a sudden "bow," "wow" "wow" of the attending dogs, who were holding a court of their own in the adjoining brush, and a cry of "wild cat" broke upon the ear.

An *instant* delivery of that court room followed. Before a second breath could be drawn jury, witnesses, constable, parties and spectators were in the brush in hot pursuit. And the court, in all its dignity, with a question half propounded, sat—alone, and —adjourned.

The wild cat, as defendant in the other court, that is, the dog court, had but a poor show. It was soon laid upon the door steps.

The court re-convened and the case proceeded to judgment.

A PIONEER'S PIE.

BY A. L. CHILD.

In early days in Indiana I witnessed a sad failure in an old toper to obtain his accustomed stimulus through imagination, when the hard hearted bar tender refused to supply the accustomed material.

"Well," says the poor fellow, after grave consideration of the whole subject, "if you won't, you wont. But I'll go through the motion anyhow." And taking up an empty bottle and a glass, he carefully tipped the bottle, while holding the glass high between the light and his eye, that he might get the exact quantity. He turned on till, by close observation and measure, he concluded he had got exactly "three fingers." Then carefully replacing the bottle, he turns round with his back against the counter for support, with feet extended and braced, he slowly raised the glass to his lips, tipped it up, held his breath and swallowed rapidly; then with repeated "Hems" to clear his throat of the fiery draught, slowly replaces the glass and waits a moment for the accustomed sensation. Poor fellow! It was a total failure, for with a very emphatic —— and "just as I expected," with drooping head and dejected air he left the room.

In a somewhat similar manner, but with a different result, in May of 1857, I supplied myself with a dinner. I was alone upon my claim, doing my own cooking, dishwashing, etc., building a home and fixing up things generally for the soon expected family, which had been left behind.

On Sunday morning, after a badly relished breakfast of bread and bacon, I found myself strongly craving some kind of a desert. I had been unable to procure fruit of any kind whatever, or anything resembling a desert. After some thought I made up my mind also "to go through the motion."

I went out into my imaginary orchard, upon the creek, and gathered some tender grape vine shoots just shooting out, and some wood sorrel, also young and tender, returned, made up my crust, put in my Nebraska fruit, a little hot water, dredged in some flour, and sat down to bake my pie.

My dinner that day was an entire success. My first, second, and last course was grape vine and sorrel pie. I will add, for the benefit of the ladies, I have not yet taken out a patent for my "pioneer pie."

EARLY DAYS IN NEBRASKA.

BY THOS. THOMAS.

In July, of 1856, I crossed the Missouri river, north of the mouth of the Platte, and then crossed the Platte at Carlisle's ferry at Cedar Island, north of which was the main channel of the Platte at that time. Carlisle dumped me out of his canoe on the north side of the Island, saying there was little or no water running on the south side, which I reached by scrambling through the brush and briars. I then drew off my boots and waded through, finding the water not over knee deep. I then climbed the rocky bluffs, watching the cliffs and holes of the rocks for snakes, the scent of which was strong and sickening.

After climbing some eighty feet, I reached the top of a narrow ridge, across which was a traveled path toward the southeast. Across a deep ravine I saw, and made for, a log cabin. On reaching it I was met at the door by a friendly little woman, who said, in answer to my inquiries, that she was not acquainted with the claims taken up near by. Mr. Hahn, her husband, soon came in and referred me to old Mr. Wm. Craig, one mile to the west. On reaching Mr. Craig's I found a very friendly old couple, under whose hospitable roof I fared sumptuously. Two miles south of this I took a claim, where Nicholas Holmes now lives. But preferring a claim on the ground of the old Otoe village, one mile east, over which I passed on my way to Plattsmouth,and meeting the claimant on the road, I bought the claim and moved onto it with my wife and family, on the 1st of September, 1856. That night my wife and I slept in the wagon, and the boys took a larger field bed, with the canopy of Heaven for the curtains. Even this, our first night, did not pass without a visitor, a large black rattlesnake; and several days after a number of hungry Indians.

Both snakes and Indians were much more plentiful than pleasant. I found several neighboring pioneers almost or quite out of provisions, and divided out to them, till, in turn, I was nearly out too: and in November sent the boys over into Iowa for further supplies. They could not return for some time as the slush ice prevented. Day after day I went down to the river, but there was no crossing; and the meal barrel was almost empty. I then wished for the old comfortable home left in Indiana. At length there was an opening in the ice, the boys with the teams were in sight and waiting on the further bank: and we put out, went over and met them. As we were returning across the river we saw the ice again coming down, and likely to sink or, at best,carry us away with it. "Work, for God's sake, work!" cried out Mickelwait, "or we are lost"; and work

we did with a will, and barely escaping the threatening catastrophe, reached Nebraska in safety. This safe return, and our success, relieved many anxious hearts, and thankfulness and joy again returned.

December 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1856, brought the heaviest snow storm upon us I ever witnessed. My little shanty saved many lives, not only of whites, but Indians, squaws and pappooses. Where my cow shed now stands I had one in 1856 with several tons of hay stacked on it. The snow drifted up and over it, and so hard and solid that a cow walked up over the shed and stack. The drift measured eleven feet in depth.

In March, 1857, Jackson Todd and I started for Omaha to enter our claims; but the Platte river was full of ice and could not be crossed, so next day Jackson Todd, Capt. Archer, Timothy Gaskill, Ed. Todd and I crossed the Missouri river at Plattsmouth, went up above the mouth of the Platte and then crossed over to Nebraska again. The ferryman with his skiff then left us and returned. As we went forward we found ourselves inclosed by a bayou, connecting the Platte and Missouri, above us, and that we were upon an Island, from which there was no means of escape but to strip and wade, if we could, or swim if the water was too deep to wade. The water was full of floating ice, and the prospect was neither pleasant nor inviting. We stripped, went in, and succeeded in crossing the bayou. We reached Omaha next day, entered our lands and started back for home. We did not care to try the same track back and again swim the bayou, although we might find a worse crassing elsewhere; so we made for Cedar Island, in the Platte, where, at the hazard of our lives in the floating ice, we succeeded in crossing all right, and were safe at home for supper.

A short time prior to this we were startled by the appearance of a band of over one hundred Indians approaching our shanty, on the grounds of the old Otoe village. They made a fearful show, but passed on, doing no harm. They were hunting ponies taken from them by the whites. They camped for some three weeks on the Missouri river below Plattsmouth, found their ponies and then quietly left.

In 1857 claim troubles became fearful. Notice was served upon us that the two boys must deed over eighty acres each to other parties, or "go *over* or *into* the Missouri river." We did neither, and hold the same lands yet, although nineteen years have since passed, and I am still left to subscribe the names of myself and family, viz.: S. L. Thomas, James W. Thomas, Mary E. Todd, Cinderella Carter, Thomas J. and George W. Thomas, and my wife, Susannah.

A DREAM.

BY A. L. CHILD.

In the words of the old temperance song,

"I dreamed a dream the other night"

whether waking, or sleeping, who knows? I cannot tell. Our waking and sleeping thoughts occasionally get so strangely mixed and tangled that we cannot separate them.

In this dream the *future* had become the *past*. Another hundred years of our national life had been turned over to the pages of history. The Centennial of 1976 was at hand.

I was wandering over an unknown city. Some few features reminded me of Plattsmouth in 1876. A fine and noble building rose before me, into which men, women and children were passing. I followed the crowd, and found myself in a large and beautiful hall. Three or four apparent Secretaries, each with large record books before him, were sitting around a table. A President and two Vice Presidents occupied an adjoining elevated seat. The President was just announcing "the business next in order," and you may imagine my surprise on hearing "The Historical Secretary will now read the Record of the Pioneers of 1876." With ear, eye and soul I listened to the acts, deeds, trials, and hardships of the old, old familiar names and associates. While this reading progressed I could not but catch the exultant whispers and remarks from different parts of the hall, of "That was my great, great, great grandfather," "That was my great, great, great grandmother," and so on. A deep and intense interest held the audience of thousands. They were living, doing, and acting in the far, far past.

The President then announced the next regular business as the "Geneological Record." "Aha" thought I, "what now? what new wrinkle is this?" When a second Secretary opened his Record and produced a lot of charts, and, placing them in a conspicuous position on the wall, traced the progress and descent of the posterity of these old Pioneers down to the then present time, with dates and place of marriage, and births of children, grandchildren, great, great &c. I could not but observe the glow of interest and exultation in the faces of the members present as their geneological lines came down from the "Blood Royal" of the pioneers.

The thought flashed upon my mind, oh! if we in our old time could have had such charts and such records, how many of the millions of treasure withheld from us, the just and rightful heirs, we might have

possessed and enjoyed; but failed to obtain for lack of them. And still further, with what interest we should have followed up such charts and lines of descent to see who and what our forefathers were; as also of their acts, deeds, and histories.

The next order was for "Miscellaneous Business." Whereupon an elderly member arose and stated that a stranger, from a distant State, had made a claim upon his homestead, alleging that it had originally been entered by fraud and perjury, and of course the entry was null and void; but that *he* had just made a legal entry of it and demanded possession. Something in the look, tone and manner at once aroused in me a deep interest, and I felt a chill run over me, in my anxiety for the fate of the poor man, when I recollected my own predictions of old, that the time would come some day when the fraudulent and perjured entries of my day would work ruin and destruction to the innocent holders of a large part of our homesteads. I therefore with deeper interest if possible watched the proceedings in this case. A third Secretary was called upon for information. He responded by opening his ponderous record and read the whole story of the entry and all its circumstances; the subsequent transfers with all the particulars; and I felt much relieved to find that all was right and safe. Yet, but for this record and proof the poor man would have lost his all.

My joy was so great over this triumph of my own great, great grandson, that I awoke? or fell asleep? Who knows which?

GENEALOGICAL RECORD.

BY THOS. THOMAS.

As the object of the Pioneers' Association is to collect knowledge and information of the past for, not only present use, but for future generations, will not its value to our children be increased as it reaches farther into the past?

With this view, I record a few items that remain to me of times before Nebraska was.

Some few years past 1750 three brothers of the name of Thomas left Wales for America. They landed in New Jersey, where one remained, while the other two subsequently passed on; one to Virginia and the other to South Carolina. A son of the one remaining in New Jersey, by name of Thos. Thomas, at the age of fifteen years, entered the Revolu-

tionary army under Gen. Washington. For a time he was employed in cutting out the printed sheets of the Continental Currency; after which he was mustered into a Light Horse company, in which he served to the end of the war.

After the war closed he married Mary Ann Grimes, who was of Irish descent. With a family of two sons and one daughter he subsequently concluded to move west of the Alleghany Mountains. In that day no wagon roads over the mountains existed, and all conveyance was made by packing. One horse was loaded with bed and clothing and the wife (my grandmother) with the infant daughter in her arms. Another horse with camp equipage and food, and a creel or basket on each side. In one basket set my Uncle Benjamin, and in the other my father, Samuel, the elder of the two. My grandfather, with his rifle, led the train, on old Indian trails, up the valley and over the mountains. Bears, wolves, panthers, wild cats, deer, &c., were often seen, from which the old rifle furnished ample supplies of meat. Days and weeks passed into months before they reached the valleys of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers, between which they settled, about thirty-five miles from Pittsburg.

My mother's father's name was Abram Larue, of French descent, and his wife of Scotch. He also served through the Revolutionary war; and had settled on Big Redstone Creek, fifteen miles from my grandfather Thomas'. My father, Samuel Thomas, married his daughter, Elizabeth Larue; and in 1817 he started for still further west.

With my mother, three sisters, older, and two brothers younger than myself, we got on board of a flat boat at Monongahela City, and floated down past Pittsburg into the Ohio, and down to Bridgeport, on the west bank of the river. There we landed and went by team to Fairview, one mile south of which, in Guernsey County, was our stopping place, which we reached in March, 1817.

It was there I married Susanna Carruthers, and from whence, on September 1st, 1837, I started with my wife and one son, Samuel L., for Grant County, Indiana. We passed through Springfield, Ohio, and then across the Black Swamp county. The deep water and mud and the rough log bridges on to which we had to climb and then jump off from into the mud, slush and water, up to the wagon bed, were rather unlike the Rail Road traveling of to-day. The incidents of this journey made too deep an impression on my mind to be soon erased. Twenty-two days' travel landed us in the thick woods in Washington Township, Grant County, Indiana, five miles east of Marion. We remained there some ten years, and cleared up a heavy timbered farm.

In 1847, with my wife and six children, one having been laid in the cemetery, I moved to Wabash County, Indiana, and there also cleared up another farm of heavy timber; built a frame house, a large frame barn, and had raised a fine bearing orchard. But in addition to this we had the ague, and more of it than we could stand. Six of us were shaking at once. We had already laid two little girls in the Wabash Cemetery, who died within four days of each other. No, we could endure it no longer. We must find a more healthy country. So in April of 1856, we started for Dallas County, Texas; but proceeded southward only to Bates County, Missouri, where, from continued ague in nearly the whole family, as also severe sickness of myself, we made a square turn to the north, and on June 22d, 1856, reached Glenwood, Iowa, which we again left in September following for Cass County, Nebraska.

THE WOMEN OF NEBRASKA.

BY A PIONEER.

We hear much of the adventures, trials, &c., of the Pioneer men of Nebraska, but, somehow, very little of the women. And yet, in my recollection of the struggles of the day, she kept her end of the yoke generally up even, and in many cases carried it decidedly ahead. True, the circumstances of the situation did not often place her in the foreground, in the prominent position of the man, but her patient and untiring helpfulness and perseverence often accomplished more than his more noisy labors. And again, in a search for *true heroism*, while we may find man under the sudden approach of peril or danger, or the stimulant of a great or hazardous undertaking, brave courageous and unyielding; is there less of the true ring of the hero in in the persevering and uncomplaining endurance of privation, hardship, toil and loneliness, unaided by the stimulants and excitements so necessary to arouse the man to action? I think not.

But try the woman in the same field with the man, arouse her by the same stimulant under which he rushes into action, and you may see the hero pale before the heroine.

I give two or three incidents, hoping they may act as reminders, and bring out others more to the point.

I might first introduce the "Lady" of the day, who in her intense zeal for the public interest, pulls her dress back till it is scarcely visible in front, and stretches it out behind into the compound hoe and cart of the

street scavenger, thereby saving the city large bills for removing the offal, filth, and mud. How many men could we, by all the combined means of which we can think, induce to undertake and persist in such herculean and repulsive labors?

But I have digressed. My plea is for "Woman."

A wife and mother, well known to us all and more especially to friend Thomas, residing, in 1857, on Four Mile Creek, in the absence of the men of the family and surrounded only by her children, saw six Indians, on their ponies, approaching the house, armed with the usual bows and arrows and one gun. The early starting blue grass in the enclosed front yard offered a more tempting feed for the ponies than the dry and burned prairies, and the Indians opened the gate for their ponies to enter and feed. This not being as satisfactory to the woman as to the Indians, she stepped to the door and forbade it; but they persisted in getting the ponies in, when a fiery stripling of a boy with a toy gun raised it against them. The savages, ready to improve the chance for a safe fight, patted their bosoms and dared him to fire, and began to handle their arms. The boy, at once seeing his own weakness, ran into the house, but returned in an instant with a more effective revolver, ready to do his best. At the sight of this weapon the arrows were fixed and the bows bent. But the woman was there; she saw that a general massacre was pending the motion of a finger. Seizing the boy, she sternly commanded him to return the revolver to the house. He obeyed. She then as sternly commanded the Indians to "Puckachee," begone. Quelled and disarmed by her bravery they turned and left.

Again, on another occasion several Indians came into the house, one of whom, a large stalwart fellow, was adorned (in his own estimation at least) with a large quantity of beads. The little girls of the family importuned the mother to get some of the beads for them. The mother at length offered a silver ring for a "swap." The Indian examined the ring, and grunted "good," "swap," put the ring upon his finger, and started to leave, ring, beads and all. But with the woman this move was "no good." Seizing a heavy iron rod, she raised it over his head, and with her eye fixed upon his, sternly demanded "ring," or "swap"; at the same time, with the iron still over his head, she seized the ring and stripped it from his finger. To be conquered, and perhaps struck, by a pale face squaw was too much for the "brave." He yielded, and with "good," "good," "swap," pulled off his beads and handed them over, took the ring and left.

One more and I am through. Many present will remember Horace Sheldon and his wife, who, in early days, settled near Cedar Creek in this County. You will also recollect that in size and weight they were quite unequal. Had she put him in her pocket it might have been somewhat overfull, but not much. But, like many small men, he did not lack in big words, or big deeds, either, if you were willing to take his own account of them.

In 1859 the waters of Cedar Creek were very high, and he attempted to cross it in a wagon with his wife and child. The current overset the wagon and away they all went pell mell down stream some thirty or forty feet and brought up against a pile of drift, from which they soon reached land without much damage. In Sheldon's recital of the fearful perils and wonderful deeds by which he had escaped, one of his hearers interrupted him with, "But, Horace, where was your wife and child all this time?" Stretching himself up, and throwing out one hip, "Where!" and giving his hip a resounding slap, "She was thar."

Mrs. Sheldon's account, which was generally received with much more credit, was, that she dragged Horace out from under the wagon bed, and up onto the drift, and then left him to take care of himself.

EARLY NEBRASKA.

BY JNO. A. MACMURPHY.

This article was read by Mr. MacMurphy from a portion of a history of Burt County, Nebraska, printed in the Omaha Tribune in 1871. Although not strictly about Cass County, it is so true a picture of early scenes that were applicable to all portions of the State, that it was very appropriate as a part of the old settlers' records of Nebraska. The land speculations of 1857, the early elections, the "Indian scares," the staking out of town lots, building of the Block House, and history of the "claim clubs" are as true of Cass County as of Burt.

"The first settlements made in Burt County were in the year 1855. The country was very wild then, in fact, the Indian title to the land had just been extinguished, and the Indians themselves were placed on their reservation during the spring of the next year. The land was not surveyed by Government yet, but a number rushed in and took claims, by

guess, as to boundaries. Some towns were laid out in this year, but it was not until the succeeding spring, of 1857, when the great rush was made, and then it seemed as if the whole floating population of the United States came up the Missouri river and "located" on its banks, in either Kansas or Nebraska. This county got its share, and towns and cities sprung up by the magic wands of little stakes, a piece of chain, a compass and a long-legged surveyor, in every nook and cranny of the land. All that was necessary was to arrange a "company" under some tree,—and from one man to a dozen comprised a company—"chalk out" a map, "write up" some certificates of shares, and then "away," to sell our eastern friends a fortune and a home.

"It was thus that Woodville and Central City, on the river were laid out; and one fellow came on in the winter of 1856, and froze to a piece of ground which he called "Hudson," He mapped her down in fine style, and then lit out for New York, where he sold enough to clear $20,000, it is said. All this time he had not a shadow of a title to the land. After it was surveyed he did obtain a title, we believe, but not until it had become a byeword among the people, "Have you ary a lot in Hudson?" His town site, along with the two others above mentioned, are now in the Missouri river or over in Iowa. A single, solitary, long wooden warehouse, half hanging over the bank, long marked the spot where "Woodville" was expected to sprout and grow.

"During the whole of '57-'8, squatters moved in, and settlers(?) came from the East; but the wildest speculation reigned, and real or very lasting improvements were seldom, if ever, made. Very little ground was broken up, no fencing built, and no small grains of any account sown. Corn was raised in patches; but trading corner lots, playing euchre, and "filing" on claims for speculation, were the principle occupations of the inhabitants, and the fine arts languished!

"Numbers of young men, "baches," they were called, herded together in the towns, but very few men of means, or with families, came into the county during these two years. Then came the crash of hard times, from 1857 to 1860. All who had money enough left to get home did so; and the rest, like "lone buffalo," straggled around awhile, and then hunted up some man's daughter of the few that were here, and made her his wife, or else went east and got one somehow. When he returned he generally settled down to legitimate work, opened up a farm or learned (?) a trade, and from that time the *real* improvement of the country began, though it was very hard times and rough work with many during all the

years up to about 1863, when they seemed to make one gigantic jump to life and vigor, and from that time to this, first class prosperity seems to be the lot of all the inhabitants of Burt County."

TEKAMA.

"Some time in 1854, Ben. R. Folsom, well known in Nebraska, conceived the idea of laying out a town up north, somewhere, and in December of the same year the first election was held in the Territory of Nebraska. It being very important that enough members should be elected from the northern counties to carry certain measures, Mr. Folsom and some others went up in two wagons to a spot on Cuming Creek, supposed by them to be in Burt County, and held an election there under a tree. Folsom was returned to the Council, and Mr. Purple, with some one else, as Representatives.

"It is said that another party came down from Sioux City, but not knowing the country very well, they got on an island in the Missouri river, opposite the Omaha Reserve, and held *their* election there. Folsom and his men having been within *twelve miles* of the county they were supposed to represent, were allowed seats, and during this session, as one of the results of this visit Tekama was hatched and born In March, 1855, it was incorporated as a town, and in July, of 1859 the "site" was bought in by Mr. Folsom, and the title made perfect to all lots, &c.

"In 1855 a straggling band of young "Omaha braves" came along, and having nothing else to do, they exercised their horses and lungs extensively about the shanties and huts of the settlers. A huge "scare" followed; men hustled their horses and cattle together, harnessed the one and yoked the other to their wagons, got the women and children in, and their truck aboard, and made tracks for Cuming City, the nearest settlement. The Indians, seeing their absurd fright, in mere wantonness pursued. Faster flew the wagons, louder groaned the women, harder cursed the men; bedding, bureaus and tools were heaved overboard to lighten their load, and yet the "scare" grew worse and worse. At last the Indians halted, rode back, and gathering up the white settlers' castaway articles, they put them all in a pile, safely, and left to crow over their exploit.

"The settlers returned, held a town meeting, and "resolved"—not to be scared again; but for better security, they determined to build a "block house" of cottonwood logs, and within its ample limits to seek shelter and defence, should ever a "red" again come around."

AN EARLY BLOCK HOUSE.

Although the "block house" was built in the first place by the settlers as common property, and as a protection against the Indians, after Folsom obtained it, there is scarcely a use that four walls and a roof can serve for, in a new country, that the old house has not been put to. It has been court house, schoolhouse, jail, church, ball room, bar room, county clerk's office, and in short father and mother, as we may say, to almost all the important transactions of Burt county for ten long years: as many of her laws, much of her mirth, and a great deal of her history was hatched and bred within the walls of the Old Block House.

What stories those old logs could tell, of friendly greetings, of kind words, of foul blows and men's strong passions. Stories of love and courtship are garnered under the old bark, and the trust and faith, good humor and endurance, of more than one married pair have been severely tried beneath its roof. The floors have echoed to merry feet in the dance, the walls have heard the grave sounds of judicial reproof and warning, the minister's solemn words of faith and hope have been heard there, the wail and wassail of many a riotous crew, and the slow and sorrowful feet of the mourners, as they bore the dead of our love away, have echoed in the narrow old fashioned hall.

Little recks the old house of all this now, but square and strong, and high, she still shows her broadsides to the keen north west wind that comes down from the Rocky mountains with a roar, and shelters many a weary traveler from the blast, for a "hotel" is kept there still, and will be, I suppose, as long as one log shall rest above another, of the old *roost*.

PLAYING "SEVEN UP" FOR HENS.

During one of the long, lonesome winters, when every kind of business was suspended, the choice spirits gathered in the old block-house, and played "seven up" for hens—no money being in the country. They caught the hens and brought them along—as they knew each other pretty well(?) A hen a "corner" was the rule. The best of the joke was, that but one of the party owned many hens, and he was a good player. He would win his hens, get pretty sleepy maybe, take them home without looking at them very particularly, and turn them out. That night the boys would steal them, and the next day they would play for the hens over again. They kept this up for a long while.

But the principal addition to the town in the spring of '57 came in one body, and mostly from New York City. R. G. Pierce and some New York men bought out sixty shares of the town site, from the three original pro-

prietors, and then induced as beautiful a party of Western green-horns to come out there as ever trod a new prairie. As the writer was one of that party, he will try and tell you how it looked then.

Days before we reached there, from the decks of the old steamer "Omaha," we could see the town(?) Bold and grand it lay, glistening in an April sun, and wondrous odd and queer the bluffs looked to our eyes, piled in fantastic shapes around it. Coming from a timbered country, where every variation of the earth's surface is not noticed so distinctly, it always seemed to me as if they were dropped there, of some soft, loose substance originally, which was shaped by the air or other elements, and all at once froze in the position you see them at present.

Against this warm hill-side were thousands of "sand-hill cranes," they told us, which made it white and shining, like a silver firmament wavering and hanging in the distance. Where they have gone to, I know not; but I do know that I saw them there, and that during that summer great numbers used to light on the bottoms below town, and we would creep down there *to see them dance*, and it is a positive fact that they can make out to "do" a pretty fair Arkansas cotillion. I have laughed till my sides ached, to see long legs and necks in a thousand grotesque attitudes, some almost human in style and *vanity*, and often wondered if they really knew "what they were doing." I suppose they thought the same of us, as white folks must have been scarce to the eye before our advent, and the cranes don't seem to have liked us overly well, as they have all left the country since our arrival

We "bachs" continued to sleep in the *Chase* mansion, but ate over at Thompson's. Poor Mrs. Thompson, how I have pitied her, since I have grown older, and know what must have been her trials, her fears, and her utter loneliness then.

First the Indians annoyed her; at that time they had not the most remotest idea of *privacy*, or the sanctity of a man's own dwelling. All the houses they had seen belonging to white men, were *trading posts* open to all, and their own wigwams contain from eight to ten families, and all are more or less common property, so by habit and usage they thought they had a right to march plump into any house, and squat down on the floor to smoke if they chose to.

Then all our ways and habits were a curiosity, they would pick up every cooking utensil, examine her clothes, and if she shut the door, would flatten their noses against the window panes for hours and watch her work. The squaws were the worst for this, and generally kept guard over all of us during meal times to see how we ate.

We eight, big, strong men roamed over the prairies and came home with such appetites as completely overpowered our meek little landlady. Our fare was mostly potatoes and bread; more and more had she cooked, and yet we cleaned the platter and looked hungry.

One day she cried—my heart bleeds for her *now*, and I believe I helped her cry *then*—bitter tears over it, and said *so* dolefully: "If I could only cook potatoes enough for *them men* ONCE, I would die happy." She is dead now, and I sincerely hope has no more potatoes to boil.

THE "CLAIM CLUBS."

The land entered upon by these settlers at this time was yet unsurveyed, no State or county officers existed, and from this resulted a curious state of facts. People cannot exist without some form of law, and they soon organized themselves into a sort of "vigilance committee" for protection and other purposes, but as internal troubles grew almost together out of disputes about land boundaries, and rights, they were called "Claim Clubs."

They chose a "Captain" or Chief, Secretary, and some minor officers, and being grasping of land power, they laid down a rule, that under *their* law men could hold 320 acres of land, and there was a strong hope in the minds of many that they could induce the General Government to consent to this, and make it legal, when the land came to be surveyed. It was totally unjust, illegal, and useless, but was law for the *time* that had to be obeyed, and many bitter quarrels never healed, and many a life lost was the product of the old "Claim Laws" of Kansas and Nebraska. Men would come in knowing the real law, and jump the squatter's odd 160 acres. In such case he was warned away by the "Club" three several times, and if he did not cease his claim then, the Club were "turned out" under their Captain, and he was forcibly ejected, even if it cost *life*. They were bound to do this by oath to that effect, as they had a "Constitution, By-Laws" and land offices, with "records," and places and times for "filing on" lands; all arranged Government fashion, except the 320 acre clause. Sometimes rival "Claim Clubs" came in contact on some boundary line, and then the "devil was to pay." The "Club" was once called out to put old man Miller off. He lay behind the logs with a loaded rifle, the muzzle of which could be seen through the chinks. As he didn't scare worth a cent they finally compromised.

Perhaps a slight notice of one of the first traders who ever went up the Missouri River may not be amiss to people of Cass County. I allude to

PETER A. SARPY,

who died here in 1865. Sarpy kept the first trading post on the Omaha Reserve, built in the fall of '56. The Omaha Indians received a large annuity then, payable every spring and fall, and at these times, Mr. Sarpy, his half breed interpreters and Frenchmen, (employees), would come up there, and for a few days it was just about the liveliest town you ever saw. At that time the Indians usually spent all the money they received in three or four days after "payment." The traders stood up at their rough counters day and night while the trade lasted, and took in thousands of dollars of gold.

When the money was spent and the Indians gorged with fresh beef, blankets, trinkets and coffee, sugar and tobacco, then and not till then did Mr. Trader take a high old spree. Stripped to the buff, often, with a whole bolt of calico for a "breech-cloth," your old fashioned "Indian Trader" promenaded the little village, and woe to the rash Indian or green white man who then and there interfered. The spree like the trade lasted several days and nights continuously. Then the goods left, if any, were packed in wagons, the gold securely strapped about them or in a safe place, and away went the trader until another payment. Chief among these was the subject of this sketch.

CLEMENT LAMBERT.

The last of the three, was also a St. Louis creole, of French extraction, a cousin of Sarpy's, and at the earliest period known of, was an Indian trader, either for himself, Sarpy or "The Company." He had all the characteristics of the old French stock of "Indian men," and was, and is, a "character" as original and curious as any of the abnormal growths of this country; caused by its rapid progress, and constant mixing of different nations and elements together.

Lambert accompanied Fremont, as his Lieutenant, on his first expedition to the Rocky Mountains, from whence he obtained the name of the "path-finder" though Lambert thinks had it not been for a few plucky Frenchmen, the path would never have been found, Fremont to the contrary nevertheless, notwithstanding. He was cotemporary with "Kit Carson" as a guide and scout, and better known, and of wider fame at the setting out of that expedition than even the renowned "Kit" himself. Lambert's fiery temper and French disposition stood in the way of his advancement, and the result was, that on the return of the cavalcade to Sarpy's post, Lambert turned "Trader" again and has not been heard of, while

Carson became a Government "scout" of fame, was made a Colonel in the regular army, and died Governor of New Mexico.

LAMBERT'S STORE.

It was in his store that the early frolics were held, some of the town Councils, and around his doors the "Claim Club" gathered in force, and took a final drink before they marched to dispossess some aspirant for "160" acres of *their(his)* land. He claims to have built the second cabin in the town, and well do I remember it. It was of rough cottonwood logs, about 18x22, with a short counter across one end, and four rough shelves behind it. One half the space in front of the counter, in the spring of '57, was piled to the ceiling with buffalo robes, otter, mink, coon, wolf, beaver, wild-cat, swift, and other furs, and tanned elk and deer skins. They smelled of all the various scents of the different beasts they grew upon.

The Indians and traders filled the place with smoke, the occupants ate *garlic* and drank whiskey. It was always crowded, always dark, always smoky, always full of the scent of "kinneykennick," and you could smell the thing as far as you can hear a locomotive whistle, if the door stood open.

High on the top of a bluff, on the banks of the Missouri, above Decatur, a few years ago could be seen the grave of the first white man and pioneer we have any record of in the country. It is

WOOD'S GRAVE.

He was there before "Lewis & Clark's expedition up the Missouri," a trader and a trapper with the Indians. Wood creek is named after him, and its mouth is the initial point of the eastern terminus of the treaty line of the Indian reserve. He was buried here in a fashion, half Indian and half white man. In his blanket, with his valuable trinkets, gun, etc., by him, sitting up, with his face down the river, that he might see the "Mackinaws" of the traders, as they came up the river at intervals, and brought him news of the great world he had left so long and so completely.

I have said that Sarpy started the first trading post in Nebraska. I think he did. Wood was the first trader however, but his "corral" could hardly be called a post, and his solitary habits did not allow of his becoming a large trader like Sarpy.

S. T. Leaming was the first mayor of Decatur, and Frank Welch is Mayor now (1871). Mr. Welch was also the first City Clerk, somewhere about 1858.

ERRATTA.—Page 64, 6th line for S. L. Johnson read S. L. Thomas; page 68, 1st line of "Justice Court" for 1867 read 1857; page 71, 8th line from bottom, for County read Country.

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